

# Writing What You Want to Write - A Brief Discussion on Literary Writing and Calligraphy Creation

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**Abstract:** From the perspective of literature, calligraphy is not only a visual art but also a carrier of emotions and thoughts. From the perspective of calligraphy, literature is not only words and documents but also the inheritance of culture and the expression of art. With its unique artistic language, calligraphy transforms the thoughts and emotions of the author into a figurative art form, making people feel the deep feelings and ideological connotations contained in the words when they appreciate the calligraphy. At the same time, the images of calligraphy in literary works also show diversified characteristics, both visually beautiful presentation, but also emotional resonance and communication. Based on the perspective of literary writing and calligraphy creation, this paper makes an in-depth analysis of the blending relationship and application path between literary writing and calligraphy creation and proposes to write your book, write your thoughts and emotions, use your literary writing as the material for calligraphy creation, and interpret and express the inner situation with calligraphy creation.

**Keywords:** Literary writing; Calligraphy creation; Relationship; Use

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## 1. Introduction

Since ancient times, most of the masterpieces of calligraphers have written their content, and then they will choose the appropriate calligraphy style and style according to the meaning of the expression. “The characteristic of these people is that they are both calligraphers and litterateurs”<sup>[1]</sup>. With the development of the era and social changes, contemporary calligraphy creation has become an obvious phenomenon apart from characters, and the close connection between calligraphy and literature has been challenged. Calligraphy and literature are two treasures of traditional Chinese culture. Since ancient times, they have depended on each other and penetrated each other. As a writing art of Chinese characters, calligraphy has become an important symbol of Chinese culture with its unique lines, structure and ink language. Literature is also a precious treasure in the spiritual world of mankind, showing its unique artistic charm with its rich emotional expression and profound ideological

connotation. Once calligraphy and literature meet, they will produce a wonderful chemical reaction and form a new artistic realm <sup>[2]</sup>. How to dig deeper into the literary value of calligraphy and promote the integration and development of calligraphy and literature is an urgent problem to be solved.

## **2. The blending relationship between literary writing and calligraphy creation**

### **2.1. The complement of content and form**

Calligraphy is a wonderful flower in the visual arts. It is inextricably linked with literature. They complement each other and embody the charm of culture together. With its unique form and style charm, calligraphy can directly express the thoughts, feelings and themes in the works. Literary writing, as the creation of calligraphy, provides rich writing content. Excellent literary works can stimulate the calligraphers' creative inspiration and make their works more artistic charm. Through different characters, strokes and ink methods, calligraphy creation can enhance the expressive force of literary works and make them more visual impact and appeal. For example, Wang Xizhi, a calligrapher in the Eastern Jin Dynasty, wrote the famous Preface to the Orchid Pavilion at a gathering of literati in the Blue Pavilion in Shaoxing while drunk. The preface is beautiful and also known as "the first line book in the world." "The Preface" is not only a masterpiece of calligraphy, but also a model of literature. In this way, the combination of literary writing and calligraphy creation can form an intoxicating artistic realm.

### **2.2. Inheritance of culture and history**

Calligraphy and literature are both treasures of Chinese culture, and they promote and penetrate each other in the process of inheritance. "The classical documents preserved in the form of oracle bone inscriptions, gold inscriptions and stone drum inscriptions are not only literary classics in a sense but also outstanding representatives of ancient calligraphy art" <sup>[3]</sup>. In a sense, calligraphy not only inherits literary classics and history but also creates the birth of an art form unique to Chinese culture. Calligraphers often use the historical context as their content. These works not only show the art of calligraphy but also spread the history and promote the inheritance and development of the context. Many ancient documents and literary works have been preserved in the form of calligraphy, becoming important materials for the study of history. The works of calligraphy themselves are also a part of history, reflecting the culture and social features of the time. For example, "Jiuchenggong Li Quan Ming" by Ouyang Xun, one of the four masters of the early Tang Dynasty, tells the story of Emperor Taizong's discovery of Li Quan in Jiuchenggong. This inscription not only demonstrates Ouyang Xun's calligraphic accomplishments, becoming his representative work but also records a historical story, reflecting the combination of calligraphy and literature. The combination of literary writing and calligraphic creation makes the text no longer just a record, but a carrier of emotions and thoughts.

### **2.3. Aesthetic and artistic enhancement**

Calligraphy is not only a tool used to record words, but also an independent art form. Combining literary writing with calligraphic creation can enhance the artistic value and charm of works. Huai Su, a calligrapher in the Tang Dynasty, was famous for his wild grass. His representative work "Self-Narrative Tie" recorded his experience and experience in learning calligraphy. The book not only shows Huai Su's achievements in calligraphy but also reflects his dedication and love for calligraphy. Literary writing is presented in a unique calligraphic form, which makes the article shine. Such artistic treatment not only increases the visual beauty of the work but also makes the connotation of the work richer and more attractive. Both calligraphy and literature have their unique

aesthetic standards, and the two have influenced each other in the long-term development, forming a common aesthetic concept. For another example, “backbone” and “verve” in calligraphy have similar aesthetic pursuits with “character” and “artistic conception” in literature. When writing, calligraphers often draw on the expression techniques and techniques in literature, such as metaphors and symbols, to make their works more artistic and innovative.

## **2.4. Resonance of emotion and artistic conception**

Literary writing often contains rich emotions. Calligraphers will incorporate their understanding and emotions into their writing to make their works more appealing. The artistic conception in literary works can be concreted through the form of calligraphy. The lines, structure, and layout of calligraphy can create an artistic conception that matches the literary works so that the viewers can feel the deep meaning of literature while appreciating the calligraphy. The creation of calligraphy is not only a kind of writing but also a carrier of emotions. Calligraphers can better convey their thoughts and feelings by using techniques such as the thickness, strength, and shape of their strokes and ink, which can arouse strong resonance in literary works. Faced with passionate poems, calligraphers can use bold and free pen and ink language to enhance the warmth and deep feeling of the poems and enrich their emotional levels. When writing quiet and Zhiyuan articles, they can choose smooth and soothing lines to echo the peaceful mood of the article and create a quiet atmosphere, so that the viewer can resonate with the author in spirit <sup>[4]</sup>.

## **3. The analysis of calligraphy creation based on a literary perspective**

### **3.1. Visual presentation**

Calligraphy, because of its unique form and way of writing, has become an indispensable element of visual expression in literary works. Each typeface has its unique aesthetic charm, and the personal styles of different calligraphers add rich visual layers to the works. *Shu Sutian* is a long volume of poems written by Mi Fu, a calligrapher of the Song Dynasty. The calligraphy is flexible and changeable. It shows Mi Fu’s innovation in calligraphy and talent in literature. It is a model of the combination of calligraphy and literature and can be used as a visual reference for future generations. In literary works, calligraphy is not only the simple accumulation of words, it also carries emotion and artistic conception. It is like a vivid picture, which brings people into a world of mood and emotion, all of which make the works more three-dimensional and rich <sup>[5]</sup>. As a special way of visual expression, calligraphy not only enriches the artistic expression of works but also deepens the emotional connotation of works, allowing readers to have more and deeper reading feelings.

### **3.2. Aesthetic feeling of art**

Calligraphy, as a special artistic carrier, has its unique aesthetic charm due to the innovation and change of its glyphs. The combination of literary writing and calligraphy creation not only improves the artistic value of the works but also makes the works more attractive. Take prose as an example, when describing a beautiful landscape, if the elements of calligraphy are skillfully used, the words can jump out and come alive. Such as Zhu Ziqing’s “Moonlight in the Lotus Pond,” if the keywords “moonlight like water, quiet shadow sinking round” are written in the quiet style of the book, the flowing cloud, the faint feeling of ink rhyme, seems to take people through time and space, to witness the quiet beauty and tranquility of the lotus pond moonlight <sup>[6]</sup>. Such artistic expression techniques not only increase the beauty of the works but also enable people to appreciate the unique

charm of calligraphy when they taste the words. The perfect combination of calligraphy and literature makes the works not only convey emotions but also give people rich aesthetic feelings.

### **3.3. Cultural ties**

Calligraphy is not just an artistic expression of words, but a cultural bond that links ancient and modern times together. The history of Chinese calligraphy is closely related to ancient Chinese culture, historical events and philosophical thoughts, giving it a profound cultural connotation. For example, the ancient literati often incorporated the elements of calligraphy into their poems and expressed their feelings through pen and ink, so that the works not only had literary value but also had rich emotional connotations<sup>[7]</sup>. Take Du Fu's "Spring Look" as an example, "the country is broken in the mountains and rivers, the city is deep in the spring grass and trees." This tragic feeling, if written with the majestic style of the book, can show the poet's worry about the country and patriotic feelings. Therefore, calligraphers also pay attention to the traditional and historical background of the font when creating, which is complementary to the historical background and cultural connotation of the work itself. Therefore, the beauty of literature and calligraphy together build up a profound cultural artistic conception, which makes people not only read the beauty of words but also have charm and can appreciate the broad and profound Chinese civilization.

### **3.4. Aesthetic resonance**

Calligraphy has formed an aesthetic resonance with its unique graphic beauty and the subject matter of literary works. Each font has its unique charm. The regular script is dignified and steady, the running script is smooth and free, and the cursive script is free and agile. These characteristics can well fit the theme of the works and enhance the artistic expression of the works. For calligraphy creation, the author once divided the ancient literati's writing motives into "practical," "training," "showcasing skills," "modeling," "lyrical freehand," "social" and other types<sup>[8]</sup>. For example, the content of "Cold Food" is a letter written by Su Shi to his friends, expressing his thoughts and concerns for his friends. The style of the running book is selected, and the brushwork is natural and smooth, with a sense of rhythm. "Cold Food" is not only a masterpiece of calligraphy but also a fine work of literature, showing Su Shi's emotions and personality. For another example, in prose that expresses delicate feelings, the gentleness and tenderness between the lines can be expressed even more by using regular letters or running books. This clever combination of calligraphy and literature not only enriches the visual level of the work but also gives people a deeper artistic feeling so that people can get pleasure and aesthetic resonance in the appreciation.

## **4. The application path of literary writing and calligraphy creation**

### **4.1. The combination of content and form**

Create literary works, such as poems, essays, short stories, etc., and perform calligraphic expressions, choosing the appropriate style according to the style and content of the literary works. Calligraphic creation plays a visual strengthening role in literary expression. It can bring a special visual beauty to literary works through the choice of fonts, the use of lines, and the handling of white space, making it vivid and vivid. For example, a regular script or seal script can be chosen for solemn content, and a running script or cursive script can be chosen for content expressing rich emotions. Present original literary works in the form of calligraphy, and express the emotions and artistic conception of the works through the language of pen and ink. This flexibility in the choice of typeface

allows the literary work to be visually closer to the theme and emotion of the work. Calligraphy is also the art of lines <sup>[9]</sup>. In literary works about wind and rain, thick lines can best express the intensity and speed of the storm. In scenes depicting idyllic countryside, soft lines can create an atmosphere of tranquility. At the same time, the appropriate use of white space can not only make the text clearer and more prominent but also enhance the emotional expression of the work. For example, writing lonely prose, uses white space to create an empty atmosphere, so that people can better understand the loneliness of the work.

## **4.2. Education and the spread of culture**

The foundation of contemporary literary writing and calligraphy creation lies in the combined development of calligraphy and literature education. Some scholars have mentioned: “As a cultural course, philology is the main course for students majoring in calligraphy. It is a kind of academic qualification, which makes students excellent. At the same time, it is a kind of professional knowledge different from those who are not proficient in technical officers” <sup>[10]</sup>. The close connection between calligraphy and interdisciplinary disciplines should be strengthened. Courses in calligraphy and literature should be set up in schools so that students can get in touch with these two art forms from an early age and cultivate their interests and hobbies. Training courses on calligraphy and literature should be held in adult education to attract adults to participate in learning and enhance cultural and artistic literacy. Online calligraphy and literature courses have been developed and disseminated through online platforms to benefit more people. Make use of social media platforms to share calligraphy and literature works to increase interactivity and spread. Calligraphy and literature play an important role in education, and through calligraphy teaching and literature education, students’ aesthetic ability and cultural literacy can be cultivated, and their comprehensive quality and cultural self-confidence can be improved. The popularization and promotion of calligraphy and literature complement each other, and activities such as calligraphy exhibitions and literature lectures not only attract more enthusiasts but also promote the spread and development of the two art forms <sup>[10]</sup>. Through the interaction of these aspects, calligraphy and literature have formed an inseparable relationship in Chinese culture and jointly promoted the prosperity and development of Chinese culture.

## **4.3. The improvement of technology and art**

Calligraphy creation is not only a bridge of emotion but also an art form deeply integrated with literature, thus making it reach a new height in both art and literature. First of all, calligraphy endows works with unique artistic value, which lies in the innovation and change of form. The calligraphers subtly adjust the form to achieve a unified effect with the theme and emotion of the work. They can incorporate artistic strokes and decorations into their images, giving them a new vitality. Although ink is the main form of expression in calligraphy works, changes in the shade of the brush and ink can produce rich visual effects. By adjusting the shade of ink, calligraphers can make the characters have different textures. Thick ink makes the characters look full and thick, giving people a strong atmosphere. Light ink, on the other hand, gives the font a fresh and transparent quality, making the work more ethereal <sup>[11]</sup>. Therefore, after reading various kinds of literary works extensively and accumulating knowledge of language and literature, calligraphy creation not only improves skills but also improves artistic attainments.

## **4.4. The integration of emotion and artistic conception**

The application of calligraphy in literary vision is especially important, it plays an emotional bridge role, and it can effectively promote the communication between literature and readers. For example, Yan Zhenqing’s

representative work, the Manuscript of Offering Sacrifices to the Nephew, is a manuscript written by Yan Zhenqing to mourn his nephew Yan Jiming who was sacrificed in the “An Shi Rebellion.” Yan Zhenqing was filled with grief and anger and wrote this sacrificial text, which was full of memory for her relatives and admiration for the heroes of the War of Resistance. This work not only expressed personal feelings, but also had high historical and artistic value, and was praised as “the second-line book in the world” by later generations<sup>[12]</sup>. First of all, the speed of writing can reflect the urgency and stability of the author’s emotions, adding a dynamic emotional color to the work. Secondly, the curved and streamlined form of lines is another important means to express emotions. Smooth lines further strengthen the coherence of emotions, so that people can feel the rise and flow of emotions when reading. In the process of creation, font and style should be carefully selected according to the theme and emotional tendency of the text, so that people can better express their feelings and realize the ideological connotation of the work more deeply in the process of reading<sup>[13]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusion

To sum up, calligraphy, as a unique art form of Chinese culture, is closely linked with literature and sets each other off. The creation of calligraphy is not only the artistic processing of literary writing but also the deepening and expanding of the connotation of literary works<sup>[14]</sup>. The application path of literary writing and calligraphy creation is multi-dimensional and multi-level. Through the use of strategies such as visual enhancement, symbolic implication, artistic enhancement and emotional bridge, the connotation and extension of literary works can be greatly enriched, the aesthetic value and artistic value of calligraphy works can be enhanced, and more colorful literary experience and aesthetic enjoyment can be provided for readers. At the same time, to promote the deep integration and innovative development of calligraphy and literature, it is advocated that “writing books with their own meanings and writing their books” so that literary writing and calligraphy creation complement each other, make a perfect connection and complement each other<sup>[15]</sup>.

## Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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