

A Study on Modern Art Expression of Cheeloo Colored Glaze

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1. The history of Fancy Glaze

1.1 The concept of Fancy Glaze

Glaze, a very thin layer of material, is adhered to the surface of the ceramic body. Based on the performance requirements of the green body, it is a kind of material which formed with natural mineral raw materials and some chemical raw materials in appropriate proportion, and covers the surface of green body under high temperature.

Located in central Lu, Zibo is an emerging industrial city which is not only the ancient capital of Qi, but also a world famous porcelain capital. The glass products and ceramic products produced here have a long history and enjoy a good reputation both at home and abroad. Zibo ceramics, especially high-temperature glaze, have a high level in shape and decoration. Most Ceramic glazes are produced in Zibo, they are known as "Zibo glaze" or "Cheeloo glaze."

Fancy glazes are brilliant ones in ceramic kingdom; they are famous for their rich colors, and unpredictable texture changes. Traditional flower glaze is fired by two or more glaze composite glaze; it is often glazed for twice or more times. Nowadays, fancy glaze can be glazed once directly, it can also show different colors and express remarkable artistic effects after different techniques.

1.2 The development and era characteristics of fancy glaze

Cheeloo glaze originate from the artistic work of kilns in Boshan Avenue area in Song Dynasty. These kilns began firing black glaze-based works at that time. It is glazed by more than two kinds of glazing colors, and form a blend or flow liner between on-glaze and under-glaze, it is also known as "transmutation fancy glaze."

Fancy glaze of the Tang Dynasty is mainly black for the bottom glaze and glazed with milky white or light blue, showing a rich texture changes and color contrast. The fancy glaze originated in the Song Dynasty Boshan Avenue area is a kind of artistic glaze which is developed on the basis of the black glaze, Jun Hong of the Song Dynasty is a typical representative.

Around the founding of the PRC, there are few fancy glazes until veteran folk artists who named Zhou Hongtian successfully developed tiger spot glaze, rosy clouds glaze and other varieties in the late 1950s. In the seventies and eighties, fancy glaze are mostly produced by Zibo City Institute of silicate, the researchers carried out relevant research, and they successfully developed fancy glaze with Zibo characteristics by using the local raw materials, which had a profound impact on Zibo fancy glaze. In the eighties, Mr. Zhu Yigui developed a flour glaze, which created a new way in the creation of ceramic art. The artists have developed a number of porcelain fancy glazes which can be fired at 1290 degrees Celsius, and they developed hares-fur glaze, blue glaze, rain drop glaze, etc., these glazing colors change frequently and their enamels are very crystal clear.

2. The material and forming process of Fancy glaze

2.1 The material characteristics of fancy glaze

On the basis of China's traditional ceramic art, Zibo art ceramics have gradually formed a unique style with elegant shape, novel decoration and bright color after continuous innovation. Zibo fancy glaze is a kind of black glaze. The bottom glaze is made of local calcium clay which contains much iron, and the glazing performance as well as adhesion becomes good through the panning and other process, the over glaze is made of opaque glaze of different colors and it is fired in oxidizing flame. Using different glaze methods such as: dip, spray, shower, smear, carve, dispensing, dip coating, etc., we can get a variety of artworks with different colors and different textures. There is a large high temperature viscosity difference between the bottom glaze and the over glaze, if the glaze is fired by high temperature, the bottom glaze and over glaze will have a relative flow and mutual reaction, especially high temperature foaming, after the bubble bursts, there will be an uneven colors around the bubble, then different glazing colors are fused, resulting in more complex changes. After firing, the glazes have natural colors, rich texture, and rich changes.

Zibo has fruitful achievements in the research of glazing colors, Zibo not only estored the already lost "rain glaze", "tea-dust glaze" and "rosy-cloud glaze", but also created a new "crystal red glaze", "chicken blood red glaze" "Venus glaze" and dozens of transmutation fancy glazes.

The precious rain porcelain, also known as oil drop porcelain, has silver dots covered evenly on the black glaze. Small as rice, the dots glittering when the glaze hold tea, and gleaming silver when the glaze hold wine, they are eye-catching just like dazzling crystal pearls.

As to the decoration of glazing colors, the powder painted pottery hanging plate is the most prominent one. It carves lines with bamboo made or wooden made knife on the ceramic embryo which is glazed with black gold glaze, and uses art glaze as pigment to color the middle of the line with colored glaze. After firing, although the

glaze has a little flow, traces of portrayal will not be soaked, the lines are well defined, and the glaze is thick, heavy and changeable. When portraying the most vivid details, the glazers use special tools to coat powder, thereby enhancing the stereoscopic effect of the picture; after firing and transmutation, different colors penetrate, overlap and spread with each other, showing unexpected magnificent artistic effect.

2.2 The universality of fancy glaze material

It can combine and fit in various kinds of implements. Cheeloo glaze are mainly made into bottle shapes. They can probably be divided into two categories: reduced type and accessory decoration type. Reduced type glazes are influenced by Jun-porcelain in the Song Dynasty and other traditional modeling; they have simple shapes and sleek lines but not too much ornamentations. Most of them are round shape, and they reflect the beauty of glaze mainly by glazing colors. Accessory decoration type glazes have various shapes. They are made on the basis of reduced type, but they have more decorations like dragon pattern, birds and other insects. On the basis of these two categories, they can be decorated with fancy glaze ornamentation, so the shape and decorative color will be more abundant. As to sculpture fancy glaze products, those made by Mr. Chen Yimu, a Chinese craft and artisan master, are the representative ones, These glazes are made on the basis of the sculpture of tiger, lion, leopard, yak, zebra, crane, ostrich, pearl chicken and other animal, they use flowing lines and other texture changes to show the skin of tiger,

leopard, rabbit and so on. Disks are generally above the black bottom glaze, they have elegant colors and rich changes after they are painted and fired by over glazes of assorted colors.

3. Color application and artistic interpretation of fancy glaze

Color is often the first impression of art works. A ceramic work can have no decorations, but they cannot be without color. People's initial feeling on an object is always color, and then ornamentation and shape. The ideal color and color effect can highlight the theme, quickly inspire people's emotional resonance, and provide high taste of beauty for life to enjoy.

Ceramic fancy glaze works have very rich art forms, unique modeling language, and color language. After the designers' conceive and design, the ordinary and simple soil has wonderful changes in the flame through the image design and color smear. After the baptism of time and temperature, soil condensed into great artistic works. Its unique craftsmanship, strong period feel, texture and color laid the foundation for its artistic character.

3.1 Color perception and emotional expression

As a physical phenomenon, color itself has no character. However, people can feel the different meaning expressed by different colors. This is because people live in the color of the world for a long time, and they have accumulated a lot of visual experiences, Color has also been given certain emotional characteristics. They bring people different visual experiences, and directly influence people's aesthetic perception, emotional fluctuations and even the state of life, work efficiency and so on. With the continuous improvement of material life and the extremely rich spiritual life, color becomes more and more important in our everyday life, different colors will bring people different psychological feelings. A slight change of each color in saturation or transparency will bring different feelings to people.

The perception of color is closely related to the history, culture and regional culture of a nation. According to the book Qing Dynasty code picture, as to the ornamentation of an emperor's court beads, only the Temple of Heaven use lapis lazuli, the Temple of Earth use amber, the Temple of the sun use coral, the Temple of the Moon use turquoise; as to the court belt ornamentations of an emperor, the Temple of Heaven use lapis lazuli, the Temple of Earth use topaz, the Temple of the Sun use coral, the Temple of the Moon use white jade.

"They all use jade colors to symbolize heaven, earth, day, month, of which heaven is regarded as the superior. Lapis lazuli and jade are have important positions in decorating whether court beads or court belt.

Color plays an important role in Chinese traditional culture. There are five elements in traditional culture, five flavors and five colors, namely red, yellow, blue, white and black. Even a person's status and social hierarchy are determined by certain colors. Since the slave society, color has been attached to political, power and religion. The ruling class stipulated red, yellow, blue, black, and white as pure colors “, they are used in the clothing of men and women with aristocratic identity, secondary colors can only be used in clothes lining or the clothing of the underclass.

In ancient China, five colors symbolize the five basic elements of the universe: yellow is the symbol of the soil, white is the symbol of gold, blue is the symbol of wood, red is the symbol of fire, black is the symbol of water. The Five Elements of ancient China is originated in the Shang Dynasty. According to Five Elements, the world is composed of gold, wood, water, fire, soil, and Five-Color theory in ancient China is built on the philosophical points of Five Elements ,and they are linked with Five Directions (cyan - oriental - wood, red - south - fire, yellow - central - earth, white - west - gold, black - north - water). They are attached with idealism and Metaphysical view, serving for the ruling class.

In China, red is almost the representative color of the Chinese nation, it is a symbol of auspiciousness, good luck, justice and happiness. Since ancient times, all hilarious and festive occasions are inseparable from the red; red is also an embodiment of status and position. According to Qing Dynasty Code: the Emperor must wear red clothes when they offer sacrifices to Heaven. Red is also the main color of royal architecture. Since the Han, Tang Dynasty, yellow has become the special color of the emperor, it symbolizes imperial holiness and dignity, and the civilians were banned to use yellow. In the Qing Dynasty, the yellow jacket was used by the emperor to reward officials who have brilliant military success and to keep their honor in history. In ancient China, religion is the spiritual pillar of the rulers, so the buildings of Buddhist temple and the Lama temple use yellow as the main tone. Monks also wear yellow clothes to show a mysterious and detached mood.

Yellow is also used to describe the sun and the earth; it is also a symbol of hope, wisdom and civilization. Blue is the color of the sky and the sea. Blue remind people of peaceful emotions. It is a mystery color, expressing people's expectations. Blue (cyan) is a very important ceramic color. Blue symbolizes the East in ancient China. White represents pure and clean. White is the traditional Chinese funeral color. White symbolizes the West in ancient China. Black is a symbol of water in ancient China, it is one of the five basic elements. In ancient Qin Dynasty, black is the special color of the emperor. Black symbolizes the north in ancient China.

3.2 Color expression of fancy glaze

The color of Cheeloo glaze has a close relationship with the development of Qi culture. The core of Cheeloo culture is Confucianism. It can be summarized as the spirit of unyielding, patriotism, humanitarian, selfless, diligent and wisdom. The tones are mainly grey, representing positive energy. After the colored glaze is fired under high temperature on the glaze body which is glazed with mirror black glaze, the glaze changes, showing an unexpected magnificent artistic effect due to the flow, infiltration, overlap, and spread of various colors, there are autumn forest, mountains, water, stars, moonlight in its groves of pine and other beautiful scenes. Colored glaze serves as a media to vividly depict the pictorial language.

The essence of artistic language is to reproduce the spiritual beauty through appearance. Fancy glaze works are often adopted by special skills; they are not limited to the simple painted of brush. Whatever can satisfy the need of creation can be used in creative drawing process including splash, spill, blow, spray, and even scratch, sometimes they can make unexpected results. The artistic conception expressed by glazed artwork is not completely controllable, and the fusion between the layers of glaze brings more unpredictability and reflects a higher aesthetic value.

4. Interpretation of the fancy glaze artistic work

4.1 Investigation and enlightenment of Fancy glaze art

Glazed works are known for their steady and intuitive texture changes. Glazers strive for mainly warm colors, seek coordination in the color contrast, and explore different possibilities in composing the picture; they try to express both visual impact and imagination of western abstract art, but also the charming spirit of oriental art, they seek dynamic exchange space in rich texture changes.

In the drawing process, between various colored glazes, there are thousands of changes in the upper and lower stacks, and they have a natural flow. In a specific context, the glazers transform contingency into inevitability, the artists express their inner culture temperament and emotional concept by the artistic symbol of fancy glaze in terms of logical form, life form, art illusion, aesthetic intuition and other aspects.

The language of the work is the performance of the artist's mood. Good works of art bring people heart to heart communication. This strong inner sympathy comes from the painter's true feelings on the work. The charm of artistic conception gives people most direct and true feelings. Artistic conception is the life of the work; it is not only from the nature, but more derived from the painter's learning and emotional expression. To obtain Artistic conception, artists need to face the nature, realize the harmony between natural beauty and spiritual beauty, experience the ideal state of life, and express their mood in a creative and unique artistic language.

The artistic feelings are expressed by the unique painting language. The language of the picture reflects the artist's pursuit, artistic experience and cultural background. Without cultivation and comprehensive on art, there will be no artistic appeal, and no imagination on the image.

4.2 The relationship between artistic expression and Buddhist mood

Everyone is a flower, each flower has its own world; everyone is a leaf, each leaf has its own green. When the flowers wither and the leaves perish, we will return everything to the earth at the last minute.

The Buddha said: to see a world in a grain of sand, and a Heaven in a wild flower, hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour.

Lotus, my love! My flower, my temperament! The ancients called lotus the gentleman flower. Zhou Dunyi, a famous poet in China wrote in his poem: But my favorite is the water-lily. How stainless it rises from its slimy bed! How modestly it reposes on the clear pool — an emblem of purity and truth! Symmetrically perfect, its subtle perfume is wafted far and wide, while there it rests in spotless state, something to be regarded reverently from a distance, and not be profaned by familiar approach.

Bright-colored Lotus represents noble and pure. In traditional Chinese culture, lotus is a symbol of good luck. While Buddhism regards lotus as a holy and auspicious thing, lotus is widely used in Buddhism such as Buddhist architecture and decoration of implements. In Buddhism there are lotus-seat and lotus-stage. Many Bodhisattvas in Buddhism were born out of lotus. Lotus is also one of the eight auspicious symbols in Buddhism.

In my work, Lotus is the performance object and love is the theme. What I want to seek is the beauty of tranquility. Treat everything in life with a sincere mind and relaxed mood and fully immersed in the gentle pace of living. The drawing of a line or the choosing of a color is sedimentary accretion of love, in this process, our soul is purified, and it becomes calm and detached. We should use colors and techniques to describe our mood attentively. With a succinct style, we show the spirit of various sceneries; with plain and gentle colors, we describe the loneliness between flowers and leaves. The subtle aroma, dark tea color, and a sincere heart melted bend in one, giving people a feeling of tranquility and ease. My works mainly show people's subjective mood and emotion. Just like we should be patient with the artistic work, we should not be blinded by greed.

5. The heritage value and innovation concept of fancy glazed artworks

5.1 The cultural connotation of fancy glazed artworks

With the passage of time, glazed ceramic art has innovated different color glaze and manifestations, which embodies the achievements of the Chinese people in science and technology and the pursuit of beauty, and form the typical technical characteristics and artistic characteristics of each era. In addition to the perception of material beauty and formal beauty, what is more precious is the emotion and mind of art. And the associations constituted by emotional emotions are the true meanings of art. Such artistic conception is the wisdom of the artist, their true experience of life, their perception of cultural cultivation and color. Because of the uncertainty under high temperature firing, fancy glaze can better reflect the charm of color, and is the synthesis of techniques and materials. Artistic conception is the life and soul of ceramic art works. Ceramic art design should meet the requirements of the changing times, which should reflect the spirit of the times and be suitable for the aesthetic needs of modern people.

Modern ceramic artwork is the art with modern artistic features, it is a kind of new personality situation which free from the traditional religion and culture bound, it is the expression of human emotions, and it is also a combination of artistic skills and materials in ceramic art. Therefore, it is an integration of ancient and modern, Chinese and Western. While focus on modeling, materials and other factors, we should be at the same time impress people with colors. Thus, glazed artworks can inherit the traditional characteristics and have a distinctive characteristic of the age. A better grasp on color and visual effects will make the artworks more impressive. Beautiful colors can instantly attract people's eyes, and give people spiritual resonance and pleasure, reflecting the rich and colorful life. The melting of color and emotion and the expression of artistic conception and romantic charm is regarded as the highest state, so that glazed ceramic artworks will have more spirit of the times, more brilliant to achieve perfection.

5.2 Commercial value of fancy glaze

Ceramic materials have good chemical stability after been fired in high temperature, they have good resistance to acid and alkali, weathering and the sun, and they are durable in outdoor space, so they are practical. Because of the uncertainty flow of the glazing colors in the big fire, Cheeloo glazed artworks become unique with high collection value.