

# Artworks with Oriental Philosophy Charm

In 《Comments On Poetry》, Wang Guowei thinks great person with great achievements all without exception will go though three states: “Westerly winds withered trees up last night. Climbing up the stairs and being lonely on the loft, I overlooked the endless distance.” This is the first state. “The dress takes to loosen gradually and I am more and more emaciated, No regretful plying at all, I am rather for her only distressed as I did” , this is the second state. “having searched for him hundreds and thousands of times in the crowd, when all at once I turn my head, find her/ him there lantern light is dimly shed.” this is the third state.

Actually, these three kinds of states are three stages the successful people will go through, namely exploring, struggling and thinking. In the first stage, they will set clear objectives and high aspirations, “climbing up the stairs and being lonely on the loft” means they will transcend common people, struggle in loneliness, spare no efforts to accomplish the intended purposes. The second stage is a description about the whole way of seeking, with absolutely no regrets, be down—to—earth, just walk alone, to achieve their goals, even forget themselves. The third stage means after long and hard endeavor, people will realize their exceptions which they have pursued for their whole life. It is profound that Wang Guowei chose verses of poets—literature Yanshu, Liuyong and Xin Qiji to constitute the three kinds of learning states.

Young ceramic artist Zhao Lantao, as a teacher in Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, follows “searching for her hundreds and thousands of times” as the title, publishes this picture album to help people know his ceramic artistic creations in recent years, this is of great significance and is worth celebrating.

I have been getting along with LanTao for a couple of years, as far as I know about Chinese ceramic painting art and modern ceramic creation in Jingdezhen, the title “searching for her hundreds and thousands of times” , accurately expressed the author’ s hard exploration… , like the three kinds of states Wang Guowei described. As a young man coming from Shandong province, Lantao came to Jingdezhen, the capital of China’ s porcelain, finished his undergraduate and graduate programmes, and at last became a teacher in Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, his aim is to create a field of his own in the field of …

In real world, “Climbing up the stairs and being lonely on the loft” means one should stand high and aim far, and not be bothered by the carnal world; Lantao has reached the second stage, this is a exploring stage full of difficulties, it needs people to have spirit of seeking in his whole life and get ready for failure at any time. … this is the second stage— “searching for her hundreds and thousands of times” stage, this picture album shows the reader his gains when hundreds and thousands of times searching.

“Searching for him hundreds and thousands of times” is hundreds and thousands times of hard work and exploration, rather than hundreds and thousands times of the results. But through the non—ostentatious works we can see Lantao’ s contemplation and civilization. Contemplation makes his works have philosophical implication, I particularly like these kind of works, like “Buddha Series” and “Lost Generation” , It is impossible to become a Buddha now, but this works reveals the suffering of our bodies and the transcendence of soul, it has the philosophical implication that one not be bothered by the carnal world. In addition to this profound connotation, the accurate grasp of the character, ingenious change of various gestures, proficient use of language and techniques of the ceramic crafts, all these have come to a admirable degree, This can be regarded as a rare specimen of masterwork.

If we consider this kind of works, like “Buddha Series” and “Lost Generation” , as been created by the use of ceramic sculpture techniques, then most of Lantao’ s works are vessels. Unlike most common vessels, the vessels he created are distinctive and beautiful because of innovation. I classify them into three kinds, the first kind is practical vessels, but the models usually have fresh dimensions; The second kind is vessels which are not practical, exactly speaking, this kind of works express something about sculpture through the appearance of vessels. The third kind is practical but not common, like plates full of feet.

The first kind of works, 《Cool Breeze》porcelain for example in this picture album, its elegant lira hide under the bright and smooth blue glaze, and blue—and—white blades of grass were drawn in a few bold lines forthrightly, as if they were rippling on the bluish waves, what’ s more, the delicate craft pure glaze color and blades of grass in liberal style contrast sharply. Another example is 《Lotus Flower Standing in The Blue River》 created with Liu Lejun, its model and craft are elegant and skillful, the famille rose lotus is fresh and gorgeous, the classic elegance of famille rose reflects with novelty of the model, it’ s a masterwork of Jingdezhen ceramic crafts, when you face up with such a “aesthetic works” , you will mostly be overawed by the author’ s craftsmanship.

The second kind of works, like 《The Deconstructed Holy Grail》series, 《the Lotus Pond beside HuTian》series, their names are cups and pots, but most of them are not practical, the author used sculpture techniques and created a innovation system through integrating lotus and the abstract artifacts like cups and pots as a whole. In modeling language, “Lotus” is natural language, cups and pots are artificial language, the combination of these two first develops a bond that is both opposite and unified; And the author intensified this opposition, he exaggerated the prickles on stalks, as a result, multiple comparisons have been formed because of different textures, such as lines and the surface, pricks and large area of smooth surface. As is known to all, the stronger the comparison is, the easier to become disordered, but the author combined them into a integrated structure and pure glazed color.

The third kind of works is a combination of the former two. It’ s practical and the morphology is new, there are many such kind of works, like the 《River》series porcelain, the author disposed the surface through carving and painting, showed the fold texture and effect of the paper or the textile, thereby formed a strong contrast of texture, sometimes the author used gold foil painting to strengthen this fold effect. Porcelain 《River NO.8》has dozens of feet like tentacles, thus make it interesting and have a sense of action, this interest carries a taste of the Post Modernism. 《Raindrops》is created in the same way, there are many “Feet” like pegs on its bottom, plate with such feet deliver humorous meaning of the Post Modernism. Artwork 《Lotus in water green glazed teaware》which is collected by Art Museum of China takes on a new look which is completely different from the classical style of traditional teaware, its primitive form is square, and there are many curve—shaped lines on its body, which makes it “alive” .

Lantao showed his extraordinary since he was in college. The irreplaceable condition in the capital of porcelain and his unique pursuit and aptitude make what he is now, and at the same time, make his works fresh, elegant, calm, aesthetic and form a unique style. I especially appreciate his apprehension and grasp about ceramic art, and also his design and vision about the future works, though it is not revealed yet.

Ceramic is an object man created, but it is not just an object, it is a special object because people put their mind and even the pursuit of beauty into it, so ceramic is a cultural and artistic object. In the hand of people who have philosophical thought, the works they created are materialization of philosophy. If the author puts all their heart into the creation, then we can say this creation is materialization and crystallization of life. So it should be like this, because can you deny the porcelain in the Song Dynasty is the creation of life of ceramic workers?

Only in this way, the creation has its life, because it is cultural, artistic and philosophical. And only in this way, it becomes beautiful and captivating and leaves prints in history.

Jingdezhen has thousand years of glorious history, shouldn’ t and can’ t we continue this kind of brilliant? My answer is we can, because there are so many promising people like Zhao Lantao in Jingdezhen and China.

LiYanzu Ph.D.supervisor  
Professor of Academy of Arts&Design, Tsinghua University  
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