

Yi Lacquerware Artistic Characteristics of Modern Art Design Applications

Zhao Qiqi¹ & Wan Jamarul Imran bin Wan Abdullah Thani¹

¹ Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia

Correspondence: Zhao Qiqi, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia.

doi:10.56397/AS.2024.02.10

Abstract

This article delves into the cultural background and artistic elements of Yi lacquerware, exploring their integration with modern art design concepts to underscore the imperative of preserving Yi lacquerware in today's society. The focus lies on innovatively blending the visual aspects of traditional Yi handicrafts into contemporary art design, ensuring the retention of Yi cultural characteristics while addressing modern aesthetic and functional requirements. Through a detailed examination of the application of Yi lacquerware's artistic attributes in modern design, the article derives pertinent design strategies that serve as a dual legacy — preserving traditional ethnic culture and offering a substantial contribution to the realm of contemporary art.

Keywords: Yi lacquerware, artistic characteristics, art design, innovative applications

1. Introduction

Yi lacquerware, as a treasure of traditional Chinese handicrafts, carries a profound cultural heritage. However, in the context of modern globalisation, this traditional art is facing new challenges and opportunities. With the rise of tourism, tourists' demand for authentic cultural products is increasing day by day, and this, to a certain extent, has led to mass-produced lacquerware losing its original authentic use and symbolic meaning. To adapt to the market demand, the Yi lacquerware market is flooded with a large number of rough and gaudy lacquerware tourist commodities. How to find a balance between traditional culture and modern needs is a new issue for the development of Yi lacquerware.

As the evolution of the overall structure of social life becomes more intricate and complex, human beings are faced with two opposed missions: on the one hand, it is necessary to exploit extremely effectively the unique and unrepeatable potential of socially recognised and increasingly highly valued works of art; on the other hand, it is necessary to maintain the direct link between artistic creation and human practices, since there is no other way of distilling the content of art (Kandinsky, 1977). Therefore, in dealing with Yi lacquerware, one expects both positive conservation measures to reverse the trend of extinction, and to free it from excessive dependence on external support to form a self-healthy and sustainable industry. In this context, the application of modern art design to Yi lacquerware has become a topic of concern.

It is also now widely recognised in the industry that Yi lacquerware can only be passed on through a sustainable development path. In this study, sustainable development is considered to mean supporting traditional craftsmen to achieve sustainable business through innovative design, drawing on modern art design modes of thinking, while protecting the ecological and humanistic environment. This includes developing cultural and creative products with local cultural characteristics, continuously improving the creative process and craftsmanship to achieve economic profitability, enhancing economic status, and maintaining the sustainability of the circular development model (Li et al., 2019). Therefore, by integrating the artistic characteristics of Yi lacquerware with modern art design, not only can we give full play to the unique value of traditional culture, but also maintain a