

Field Guide
Of Chinese Paper cutting

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Overview

Introduction

Paper cutting refer to handicrafts made by cutting paper with scissors to form different patterns and pasting them on walls, windows, doors and ceilings.

Paper cutting has evolved uniquely all over the world to adapt to different cultural styles.

Paper cutting was first found in China since 6th century by the eighth or ninth century paper cutting appeared in West Asia and in Turkey in the 16th century. Within a century, paper cutting was being done in most of middle Europe.

Chinese paper cutting originated in ancient ancestor worship activities such as pray the God which is rooted in profound traditional Chinese culture. Chinese paper cutting is Two thousand years old, it concentrates the transitional concept of Chinese culture which evolution in art and pottery, rock art and other art intertwined , also deferred the human spirit and idea of the pulse of the ancient people. Paper cutting became an integral part of Chinese traditional culture, traditional belief's and a microcosm of the Human moral, but also observe the folk culture of a nation's heritage windows. Paper cutting has been very poplar among the ordinary people of China.

History Context

Chinese paper cutting has its own manual formation and development process. Chinese paper cutting was invented in 3rd century BC, the Spring and Autumn Period. In that Period, people used thin material, like leaves, silk and leather to carve hollowed patterns before the paper was invented. Han Dynasty invented the paper which is prompted emergence of paper cutting, development and popularization.

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Definition

The reason that Chinese paper cutting is able to be widely spread is it has the performance meaning of “enjoy a life of ease and comfort and auspicious”. Since the enclosed environments, culture limited along with the natural disaster in ancient China which stimulated people to desire for a happy life. Ancient Chinese people prayed for having "ample food and clothing, flourishing population, good health and a long life and good luck", all these wishes they used paper cutting to express out.

Setting

To promote the prosperity and development of Chinese paper-cutting art, show the art of Chinese paper-cut has special charm. China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, Chinese Folk Literature and Art Association, the CPC Hebei Provincial Party Committee Propaganda Department, Hebei Literary Federation, Hebei Province Department of Culture, Zhangjiakou Municipal Government jointly organized by Chinese paper-cut art festival.

Let tourists and visitors who came from many different places, enjoy the unique charm of the art of paper cutting, witnessed the paper cutting artist virtuosity, experience rural civilization and sentiments with strong local characteristics. At the same time to build up the bridge to provided the experts and scholars which from domestic and foreign to communication and cooperation.

Transmedia

1.Museum

- Chinese paper cutting Museum

<http://www.zgjzbg.com/2011/>

- Guang Ling Chinese paper cutting art museum

<http://www.zggljz.com/>

To collect, collate kind of information about paper-cutting from generation to generation and the permanent collection.

Communicate with domestic and international Internet and displays and exhibitions to promote the theoretical research and creation of art of paper cutting. Promote national culture for the purpose of paper-cut.



2. Art Festival

The first Chinese paper cutting art festival with tradition, innovation and development as the theme, as well as the concept of “happiness, magnificence, and inheritance” to show the Chinese paper cutting cultural and artistic achievements. The purpose of this art festival is to promote Chinese paper cutting and expand the development of paper cutting industry.

3. Chinese paper cutting street

● Nearly 41 works from the National Intangible Cultural Heritage sites project brings together exhibition on the paper-cut street, across the country genre of paper-cut artist for live performances and skills exchange, a lot of people come here, to visit and enjoy the paper-cut culture.

4. Newspaper & Magazine

● *China New Generation*

The author states that protect and rescue our traditional folk paper-cutting has become the consensus.

5. Website

<http://www.zhidiy.com/jianzhi/yuanchuang/>

Some paper cutting enthusiasts sets up their own websites to show some works by themselves, shows the steps to teaching people who are really interested in paper cutting. These individuals or non-governmental organization founded website, provide an opportunity and platform to let more people learning

6. Books

● *Chinese Paper Cutting* Zhongliang Wu

ISBN: 9787807067719

● *The classic Chinese Paper Cutting* Jing Wang Chunya Jiang

ISBN: 9787807651871

7. Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2EzpteYuoM>

8. Social Network

https://www.facebook.com/ArtisticChineseCreations?hc_location=timeline

There are many Non-profit organization set up they are public home pages in some social network like Facebook or Twitter.

Analysis

Paper cut is a worldwide cultural phenomenon. It is amazing because traditional Chinese paper cutting are still alive in the daily life from different nationalities.

In 2009, Chinese paper cut has entered the UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Chinese paper cut showing diverse trends in current status.

Paper cutting as the representatives and essence of art of traditional Chinese folk culture. Their skills are not taught threshold limit, and public participation in civil society are very positive.

Although Chinese paper cutting is a deep and profound culture, but it does not limited the teaching skills by other factors. As this semester to learn the relationship between art and public participation, the Chinese people now pay special attention to the art of the heritage and development, many art organization and artists develop the culture of folk paper cutting. Public participation is very important for the development of the arts, paper cutting precisely in line with this. This art can get more people involved in and create.