



RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Application of Impressionist Colour Techniques in Contemporary Chinese Painting

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: Jun 19, 2024 Accepted: Aug 11, 2024	In the present study titled "The Application of Impressionist Colour Techniques in Contemporary Chinese Painting", uses qualitative methods and focuses on the colour characteristics of Chinese painting to conduct in-depth research and analysis on the use of colour in Chinese painting. As one of the important art schools that emerged in France in the late 19th century, Impressionism has influenced art world with its unique colour techniques and light and shadow processing methods. In the history of the development of contemporary Chinese painting, the colour techniques of Impressionism have been widely disseminated and applied, while presenting its unique innovative form. This paper explores its specific application in contemporary Chinese painting through the analysis of Impressionist colour techniques. The study found that the colour techniques of Impressionism fill the lack of unity in Chinese painting in colour expression. It promotes the understanding and application of colour by Chinese artists. Through different case analysis and practical research, this paper aims to reveal the practical guiding significance of Impressionist colour techniques for contemporary Chinese painting creation and provide a new perspective and strategy for the future development of Chinese painting.
Keywords	
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Colour techniques	
Contemporary Chinese painting	
Light and shadow processing	
Creative methods	
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INTRODUCTION

In contemporary Chinese art, artists continue to explore and draw on international art schools, thereby expanding the expression of traditional Chinese painting with richer colours. As a result of a Western art movement, Impressionism has profoundly influenced the development of modern Chinese art with its unique treatment of colour, light and shadow. Through the careful observation and expression of light, colour and brushstrokes, Impressionist artists shifted the focus of art from objective realism to subjective feelings and emotional expression. This shift is a technical innovation and a revolution in artistic language and aesthetic concepts. In the practice of contemporary Chinese painters, borrowing and applying the colour techniques of Impressionism has injected new vitality into traditional themes and opened new possibilities for artistic innovation.

This article will introduce the basic characteristics and colour techniques of Impressionist art, explore in depth how these techniques are applied in the works of contemporary Chinese painters, and analyse their impact on artistic expression and audience experience. Combined with actual cases and different artists' views, the practical significance and future potential of Impressionist colour techniques for the development of contemporary Chinese painting are evaluated. Through this study, we can better understand the role of cross-cultural art exchanges in promoting artistic innovation

and how to maintain and develop their own unique artistic expressions in the context of globalization.

Background Introduction

The evolution of oil painting styles, themes, and techniques has accounted for a large part of the development of Western painting art. Since its birth, oil painting has endured several periods such as classicism, romanticism, impressionism, and abstractionism. Impressionism occupies an important position in the history of Western oil painting. It changed the popular oil painting styles and methods in the past few centuries with new colour theories and creative techniques. Impressionism is not limited to the spiritual transmission of the author. "What is painted is what is seen" has gradually become one of the creative principles of Western oil painting (Yan et al., 2023). Since the origin of Impressionist art in France in the late 19th century, it quickly became famous in Europe for its unique treatment of light, shadow and colour. This art movement was initiated by Monet, Renoir and others. The core idea is to express reality by quickly capturing the instantaneous feeling of natural scenes and emphasise the visual effects of colours and changes in light.

In the early 20th century, with the introduction of Western art to China, the artistic concepts and techniques of Impressionism were gradually accepted by Chinese artists and applied to the creation of Chinese paintings. Especially after the reform and opening up, the colour techniques of Impressionism have received widespread attention and application in the Chinese painting world.

Problem Statement

Although the application of impressionist colour techniques in Chinese painting has achieved certain results, in specific creative practice, it is still a question worth exploring in depth to better combine this technique with the traditional expression of Chinese painting. When exploring the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting, we face the following problems and challenges:

How can impressionist colour techniques be integrated with the historical and cultural background of traditional Chinese painting?

Impressionism emphasises the expression of light and shadow and colour, which is in contrast to the artistic conception of brush and ink in traditional Chinese painting. How to transform and adapt the artistic language between the two?

Can contemporary Chinese painters innovate and develop modern works based on maintaining traditional techniques? Can impressionist colour techniques provide a new visual language for this?

Under the premise of globalization, how can Chinese painters express the balance between local culture and international vision through impressionist colour techniques?

These questions will lead us to explore the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese oil paintings and understand its significance and challenges in artistic creation.

Research objectives

1. Analyse the basic principles and expression methods of impressionist colours in painting, including sensitivity to light and shadow and colour changes.
2. Examine how impressionist colour techniques are introduced in the works of Chinese painters and what impact they have on traditional Chinese painting styles.

The influence of portraiture and tempera techniques on the development of Chinese art schools is very extensive. The development and use of these two techniques are not affected by school learning and the development of the artist's personal painting style. The evolution of the unique style and

skills of young artists and their transformation under the influence of national cultural traditions is also huge, transitioning from the theoretical level to practice (Wang, 2023).

3. Analyse how contemporary Chinese painters use impressionist colour techniques in their creations and explore the uniqueness and innovation of colour expression in their works.

Research questions

1. How are impressionist colour techniques introduced and integrated into traditional Chinese paintings?

2. What is the specific impact of impressionist colour techniques on colour expression in contemporary Chinese paintings?

3. How does the application of impressionist colour techniques promote and enrich the artistic forms and expression methods of contemporary Chinese paintings?

Research Significance

An in-depth exploration in this topic is the combination of traditional art and modern aesthetics, along with an in-depth study of cultural identity, art education and inheritance, visual culture and aesthetic experience, and art market and economic impact. Analysing and interpreting the application of this technique in Chinese art practice can deepen Chinese painters' understanding of cross-cultural communication in art and enrich the expression of traditional Chinese painting. It also helps China to guide the development of art education, promote artistic innovation and market development, and provide new perspectives and practical paths for art education and cultural inheritance. The essential difference between the perspectives of Chinese and Western paintings lies in the different aesthetic attitudes they take towards similar non-perspective landscapes, and the resulting differences in painting details. Reflecting on and positioning "scattered perspective" in a broader art history is an effective means to further promote exchanges between China and the West and highlight the unique aesthetic pursuit of Chinese painting (Sen, 2023). Analysing how contemporary Chinese painters understand and apply impressionist colour techniques can help explore its impact on cultural identity and how to show unique cultural perspectives through innovative forms of expression in the context of globalization. The study of the teaching and application of impressionist colour techniques in Chinese painting has guiding significance for the development of art education and helps to inherit and develop traditional Chinese painting skills and helps analyse its market and economic impact.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Impressionism, an art school that emerged at the end of the 19th century, occupies an important position in the history of Western art. The artists use bold colours and changes in light and shadow, breaking through the depiction of reality in traditional paintings, and instead focus on instantaneous changes in light and shadow and subtle differences in colour. Impressionist artists abandoned traditional lines and contours, emphasizing that colour could express the form and space of a work through contrast and superposition. This technological innovation not only influenced the later modernist art school, but also provided new creative inspiration for artists around the world. The capture and expression of natural light is the core of Impressionist colour techniques. Another distinctive feature is the use of short brushstrokes to express changes in light and shadow, making the picture full of movement and vitality. In addition, Impressionist painters tended to paint outdoors and directly observe the scenery under natural light. Such works are full of natural atmosphere and vivid light and shadow effects.

With the deepening of cultural exchanges between China and the West, Impressionist colour techniques were gradually introduced into China and had a profound and significant impact on

Chinese paintings. Early Chinese oil painters, such as Lin Fenman and Liu Haise, studied in Europe and viewed Impressionist works, and began to try to introduce Impressionist colour techniques into their creations. Oil painting should have both literary blood and life foundation. The works of artists reflect the social life and spiritual outlook of the time. Take the Russian French painter Marc Chagall as an example. His works describe his deep longing for his hometown, his romantic imagination of love, and his adherence to personal beliefs, expressing Chagall's emotions in painting. Using specific works as carriers, his unique colour skills are explained. Analysing Chagall's painting thinking, and the expression of his inner emotions can explore Chagall's extraordinary artistic career and perceive his painting language (Xiao & Han, 2022). While maintaining the artistic conception and charm of traditional Chinese painting, they also drew on the Impressionist approach to light, shadow and colour to create works with a unique style.

Some studies have pointed out that the introduction of Impressionist colour techniques provided a new means of expression for Chinese painting, which helped to break the shackles of traditional painting and promote artistic innovation. Colour richness includes using a wider tonal range or creating subtle variations with complex transitions. Painting techniques from the Renaissance to Post-Impressionism are compared and discussed with digital painting techniques. Munsell Colour Space (MCS) illustrates the progress of colour theory and pigment technology, which is related to breakthroughs in painting practice, especially the evolution of painting techniques brought about by the pre- and post-Impressionist periods. Optical behaviour is based on the base colour, pigment availability and colour optical behaviour (Ng et al., 2023). To sum up, the application of Impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting is not only an important achievement of artistic exchange between China and the West, but also a new direction for the development of Chinese painting. Through in-depth research on this topic, we can better understand and learn from the artistic essence of Impressionism and promote the innovation and development of Chinese painting.

Introduction to Impressionist Art

Impressionist art had a strong reaction against traditional academic painting. Traditional painting emphasized detailed depiction and historical and religious themes, while Impressionism focused on daily life and natural scenery, emphasising the instantaneous changes in colour and light and shadow. With the continuous development of society and the exchange and integration of cultures, artistic expressions have become more diversified and open. Painting, as a comprehensive creative method, can better adapt to the diversified needs of contemporary society. The application of comprehensive materials in painting will provide new possibilities for the further development of painting art (Li, 2024). The dramatic changes in society after the French Revolution and the urbanization process brought about by the Industrial Revolution provided Impressionism with rich themes and sources of inspiration. Most Impressionist painters gathered in Paris, often sketching outdoors on the banks of the Seine and in the suburbs to capture the instantaneous changes in light and shadow and the true beauty of nature.

Post-Impressionist artists such as Paul Cézanne, Vincent Van Gogh and Georges Seurat further developed their own unique styles based on the inheritance of Impressionist techniques. For example, Cézanne pioneered Cubism through geometric colour blocks and composition, and Van Gogh became a representative of Expressionism through bold colours and strong emotional expression. The influence of Impressionist art is not only reflected in the field of painting, but also extends to multiple art categories such as literature, music and film, becoming an important part of international art exchanges. At the same time, the Impressionists' attention to natural beauty and daily life also reminds modern people to cherish the beautiful moments in life and discover and record the beauty of art around them. Impressionist art is not only an important school in history, but also a trend of thought that continues to influence contemporary art creation.

Overview of Artistic Style

Artistic style is a unique form of expression and visual language formed by an artist during the creative process. Different artistic styles have significant differences in content, form, technique and expression, thus leaving a rich and colourful chapter in the history of art. For instance, Classical art style originated from ancient Greece and Rome and is characterized by its pursuit of symmetry, harmony, proportion and rationality. Classicism emphasises the idealized expression of the human body and the perfect proportions of architecture. Representative writers include Phidias of ancient Greece and Vitruvius of ancient Rome. Renaissance artists such as Michelangelo, Raphael and Leonardo da Vinci inherited and developed the artistic essence of classicism, bringing it to new heights.

The Baroque art style originated in Italy in the 17th century and often expresses emotions and a sense of religious sublimity through complex compositions and luxurious details. Representative painters include Caravaggio, Rubens and Rembrandt. As a continuation and transformation of Baroque, Rococo art shows more characteristics of elegance, lightness and refinement. Representative painters include Watteau and Boucher. Baroque art not only emphasizes grandeur, but also has a strong romantic colour. It is full of passion and movement. Because the era and political and historical background of Baroque art and Rococo art are different, the aesthetic value of their works of art is also very different; because the cultural quality and personal aesthetic taste of the rulers are different, this also indirectly leads to the difference in style and theme of these two types of art, so there are also great differences in the expression of their artistic styles in fine arts (Xiao, 2024). Impressionism originated in France in the second half of the 19th century and represented an innovation in traditional painting techniques. Impressionist painters abandoned fine depictions of detail and instead used short brushstrokes and bright colours to capture momentary changes in light and shadow and natural scenes. They often paint outdoors to express the true feelings of nature. Representative painters include Monet, Renoir and Degas. Impressionist art had a profound impact on the development of modern art.

Modernism includes many different schools, such as Cubism, Abstraction, Surrealism, and Expressionism. Modernist artists pursue personalized expression, pay attention to the inner world and subconscious, and focus on formal experimentation and diversity. Representative artists include Picasso, Kandinsky, Dali and Mondrian. Meanwhile, the postmodern art style began to rise in the mid-20th century, and its main characteristics are its reflection and deconstruction of modernism. Postmodernism emphasises diversity, cross-border and anti-tradition, and often expresses criticism and reflection on social reality by mixing different art forms and cultural elements. Represented artists include Andy Warhol, Jean-Michel Basquiat and David Hockney. The evolution of artistic styles reflects the continuous changes and development of human aesthetic concepts and social culture as each artistic style has its own unique value and charm, adding rich colours and profound connotations to art history.

Theory of painting colour exploration

The theory of colour exploration in painting is the basic theory for studying the application and expression of colour in painting. It includes the basic principles of colour, the application of colour in artistic creation, and the psychological and physiological effects of colour. In the words of David Hubel, the neurobiology of vision can enhance art. The visual arts encompass a dizzyingly diverse range of works (Conway, 2022). Focusing on two-dimensional artworks can serve as an introduction to the field. Its basic principles are as follows:

1. Three elements of colour: Colour consists of three elements: hue (Hue), value (Value) and saturation (Saturation). Hue refers to the category of colour, such as red, blue, etc.; value refers to the lightness or darkness of the colour; saturation refers to the purity or intensity of the colour.

2. Colour Mixing: Additive mixing: producing new colours through the mixing of light, mainly used in digital displays and optical equipment. The three primary colours are red, green, and blue (RGB).

Subtractive Mixing: The mixing of pigments to produce new colours, mainly used in painting and printing. The three primary colours are cyan, magenta, and yellow (CMY).

3. Colour contrast and harmony: Colour contrast refers to the visual effect produced when different colours are together. Common ones include complementary colour contrast, brightness contrast and warm and cold contrast. Colour harmony refers to the coordination and unity between colours, aiming to create a harmonious visual effect.

Different colour applications in artistic creation also have different meanings and have different symbolic meanings in different cultures. Through the research and application of the theory of colour exploration in painting, artists can understand and use colour more deeply, express rich emotions and thoughts in creation, and create works with visual impact and artistic appeal.

Artists and examples of works

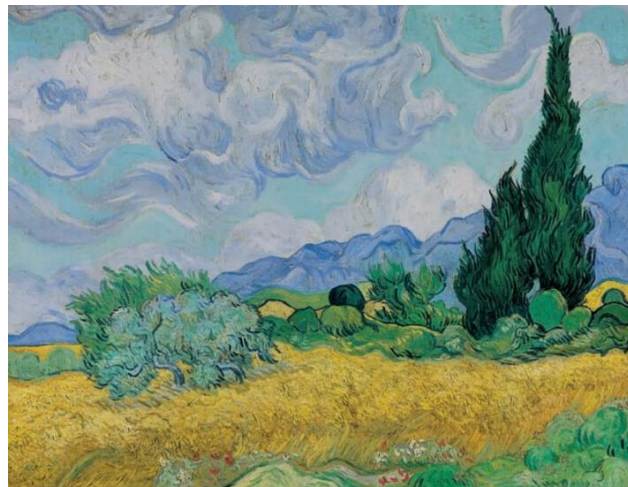


Image 1: Wheat Field with Crows by Van Gogh

Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) had a great passion for farmers and field life. His works include "Starry Night", "Sunflowers", "Wheat Field with Crows", etc., which had a great influence on the later Fauvism and Expressionism.

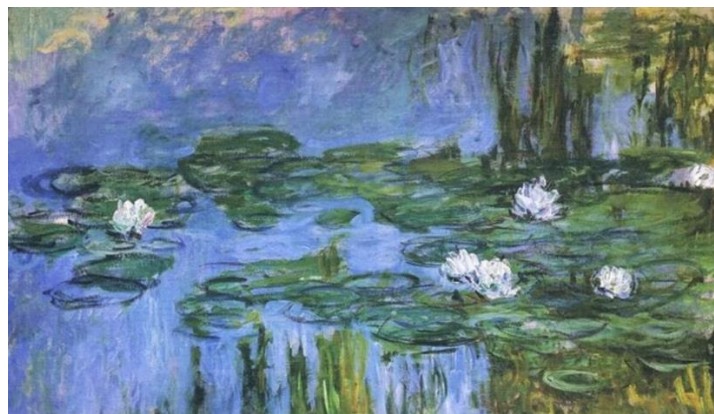


Image 2: by Water Lilies by Claude Monet

Claude Monet, a French painter (1840-1926), known as the "leader of Impressionism". He is proficient in light and shadow experiments and expression techniques. His most important style is

the way of changing shadows and contours. In his paintings, there are no very clear shadows, nor prominent or flat contours.

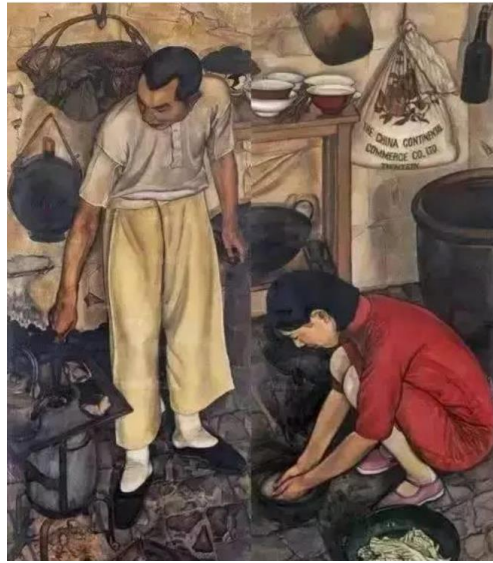


Image 3: Diary of Exile by Wang Yuzehi

Wang Yuezhi's "Diary of Exile", 1930-1931, size 185×144cm. This work has political significance, mainly the artist's own experience, reflecting the reality of social chaos and people's unrest, and deliberately showing the optimistic spirit of people with lofty ideals who are not surprised by changes. It is an "extreme realist work".

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study aims to explore the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting and adopts a variety of qualitative research methods to fully understand and analyse this artistic phenomenon. Through a systematic review of relevant literature, the basic theory, historical development and current application status of impressionist colour techniques in the world are understood. The literature review will involve several academic papers, books and art reviews to extract the core concepts and technical characteristics of impressionist colour techniques.

In the process of painting, it strives to remove any social culture and internal memories and imaginations of the subject that are irrelevant to the original impression and tries to present the instantaneous impression in the picture through separated colour blocks and rough brushstrokes. As a representative of Post-Impressionism, Cézanne reflected on the dilemma encountered by this theoretical assumption of Impressionism. By restoring the structure of the reproduced object with stability, Cézanne tried to present a more original perceptual relationship between the painter and the reproduced object on the picture (Li, 2021). The case analysis will also compare these works with typical impressionist works to find out the similarities and differences in the use of colour between the two.

Through field research, understand how contemporary Chinese painters learn from and apply impressionist colour techniques in their creation. Select works of contemporary Chinese painters with certain influence at home and abroad to deeply explore their understanding and practice of impressionist colour techniques. Analyse and summarise the common and individual characteristics of contemporary Chinese painters in colour techniques. By referring to the interview materials of art theorists and critics, one can obtain professional insights and theoretical support for the application

of Impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting. Focusing on the theoretical background, specific application, innovative value and future development direction of Impressionist colour techniques, I believe that expert opinions and suggestions will provide valuable theoretical support for the research.

Data Collection

The data collection work of this study is mainly divided into three parts: literature collection, case work analysis and field research.

1. Literature collection will collect relevant literature on the classic theory, historical development and application research of Impressionist colour techniques by searching domestic and foreign academic databases, library resources and art journals. It mainly focuses on the creative concepts, colour techniques and influence of Impressionist artists in different periods and regions and summarises relevant academic research. This part of the information will provide a solid theoretical basis for the research.

2. Case work analysis will select representative contemporary Chinese paintings that are obviously influenced by Impressionist techniques in the use of colour. High-quality image materials will be obtained through art museums, galleries and art exhibitions, and detailed technical and artistic analysis of these works will be carried out. The analysis includes the creative background of the works, colour selection and matching, light and shadow effects, and their corresponding relationship with impressionist techniques. The case analysis will reveal the commonalities and innovations in the use of colours between the classic works of impressionism and contemporary Chinese paintings.

3. The field research will collect the understanding and practice of impressionist colour techniques by contemporary Chinese painters in the form of questionnaires and in-depth interviews. The survey subjects are contemporary Chinese painters with certain influence at home and abroad. The questionnaire content covers their cognition of impressionist colour techniques, specific applications in creation, technical innovations and their effects in works. There are many objective and subjective factors that affect aesthetics, and aesthetic psychology has accumulated a lot of scientific research and discussion. Order, complexity, and the balance between order and complexity are often used as factors that affect aesthetic preferences. Western aesthetic psychology has greatly influenced the abstract art aesthetics of modern art and puts forward prospects for the future research direction of aesthetic psychology in China (Cheng et al., 2022). Through face-to-face in-depth interviews, challenges and experiences encountered by painters in the creative process will be explored.

To obtain more authoritative theoretical support and professional insights, this study will also conduct expert interviews. Art theorists, critics and well-known painters are invited to discuss the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese paintings and explore its innovative value and future development direction in theory and practice. The data of expert interviews will be collected and sorted through recordings and text records. Through the above multi-level data collection methods, this study will obtain rich and detailed data, providing a solid foundation and multi-angle support for in-depth exploration of the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting.

Analysis and Observation Methods

This study adopts a variety of analysis and observation methods to ensure the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the data. Text analysis is one of the main methods of study. Through systematic text analysis of the collected literature, the core concepts and specific techniques of impressionist colour techniques are extracted, and its application characteristics in different periods and regions are summarized. Image analysis is used to analyse case works. Representative contemporary Chinese painting works are selected, and the images of these works are carefully analysed, including colour

selection and matching, light and shadow effects, and tonal transitions. By comparing impressionist classics with contemporary Chinese paintings, image analysis can reveal the similarities and differences between the two. Participant observation method is also used in this study. By participating in art exhibitions, painting exhibitions and related academic seminars, the actual operation and application of techniques of contemporary Chinese painters in the creative process are observed. This direct observation method can provide first-hand creative practice data and help researchers more intuitively understand the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK of IMPRESSIONIST COLOUR TECHNIQUES

Basic principles of colour techniques

As an important part of painting art, colour techniques involve the use and processing of colours, aiming to express the artist's visual intentions and emotional expressions through various means and technical techniques. Its basic principles mainly include the following aspects:

1. **Colour theory:** The basis of colour techniques is colour theory, including colour wheel theory, basic properties of colour (such as hue, brightness, saturation) and the relationship between colours. Dunhuang murals are the most important part of my country's brilliant painting history. After thousands of years of wind and rain, most of the murals are facing fading and discolouration. The protective research of Dunhuang murals mainly focuses on the restoration of faded and discoloured areas. A virtual restoration method based on $L^*a^*b^*$ colour space is proposed to achieve colour segmentation. The colour segmentation of faded and discoloured murals is achieved using $L^*a^*b^*$ colour space. At the same time, Photoshop software is used in Lab mode to virtually restore the murals, and the colour appearance of the murals is adjusted by changing the L curve, a curve, and b curve (Liu et al., 2023). Through the understanding of colour theory, artists can better select and use colours to achieve the desired artistic effect.
2. **Colour contrast and balance:** Colour techniques emphasize the use of colour contrast and balance. Contrast refers to the obvious difference between different colours, such as the contrast between cold and warm colours, light and dark contrast, etc., which can enhance the visual impact and dynamic sense of the picture through contrast; balance is to maintain harmony and unity in the distribution of various colour elements in the picture, avoiding colours that are too prominent or chaotic.
3. **Symbolism and emotional expression of colour:** Colour is not only a visual experience, but also has the function of symbolism and emotional expression. Different colours can evoke different emotions and associations in the viewer. For example, red may symbolize passion or danger, and blue may symbolize calmness or tranquility. Through precise colour selection and application, artists can more accurately convey their emotions and themes.
4. **Colour hierarchy and transparency:** Colour techniques also involve the mastery of colour hierarchy and transparency. Through the superposition, mixing or transparent processing of colours, artists can create rich spatial depth and texture effects, making the picture more three-dimensional and vivid.
5. **The expression of light and shadow effects:** Colour techniques are particularly important in expressing light and shadow effects. Through the colour processing of light and shadow, artists can simulate the reflection and refraction effects of the surface of objects under different light sources, enhancing the realism and three-dimensionality of the picture.

In general, colour techniques are not only an exploration of the technical level of colour use, but also a concrete presentation of the artist's creative concept and emotional expression.

Light and shadow processing

Light and shadow processing is one of the important techniques in painting art, which enhances the three-dimensionality, depth and realism of the picture by simulating the effects of light sources and shadows. Light and shadow processing involves the accurate grasp and expression of light direction, light source intensity, shadow distribution and other aspects. The following are several key aspects of light and shadow processing:

Light and shadow processing first requires determining the position and nature of the light source. The light source can be natural light or artificial light. The position of the light source determines the direction of the light and the direction of the shadow projection. In the process of light and shadow processing, there is usually no abrupt boundary between the highlights and dark parts, but a certain gradient and transition. Through delicate gradient processing, the light and shadow effects can be made more natural and realistic, avoiding harsh boundaries.

The shape and direction of the shadow are important elements in light and shadow processing. Henri Michaux, a Belgian-French writer and artist, is a representative figure of abstract expressionism. Michaux's early critical articles trace his anti-essentialist "fluidity" consciousness and analyse and interpret the specific manifestation of this concept in his two major series of representative works - ideographic paintings and "mescaline paintings" (Yang, 2021). By accurately depicting the shape and direction of the shadow can enhance the spatial sense and realism of the picture and make the object more three-dimensional in the picture.

Light and shadow processing is not only the depiction of light and shade, but also involves the expression of the texture and details of the object.

Colour contrast and saturation

In painting, colour contrast and saturation are important factors that determine the visual effect and emotional expression of the work and are indispensable elements in painting. Through their clever use, painters can convey rich visual experience and profound emotional connotation in their works. This not only helps to enhance the artistic value of the work, but also allows the audience to better understand and appreciate the work. Colour contrast creates visual impact by contrasting the brightness, hue and saturation of different colours, while saturation refers to the purity and intensity of the colour.

In addition, hue contrast is to create visual effects by contrasting the hues of different colours. The contrast between adjacent colours such as red and orange is weak, while the contrast between opposing colours such as red and green is very strong. The relationship between colour and emotion is close and complex. The PAD three-dimensional model of emotion can be used as a basis for exploring the relationship between colour and emotion. Social and cultural factors play an important role in this (Shi et al., 2021). These colours usually have a strong visual impact and can attract the audience's attention and trigger emotional reactions. By using colour contrast and saturation, painters can create a variety of emotions and atmospheres in the picture, enhancing the expressiveness and appeal of the work.

RESEARCH RESULTS and ANALYSIS

Application of Impressionist Colour Techniques in Traditional Chinese Painting

The application of Impressionist colour techniques in traditional Chinese painting marks the deep integration of Eastern and Western art in colour expression. However, the introduction of Impressionism brought a new perspective on the use of colour. Impressionist painters such as Monet and Renoir showed the rich changes of colour and light and shadow through direct colouring with pure colours, delicate decomposition of light and shadow, and short brushstrokes. With the

development of science and technology, mobile network media has gradually replaced traditional mainstream media, which has brought great impact and opportunities to the development of traditional painting and calligraphy (Feng, 2023). After thousands of years of development and evolution, it has formed a unique art and humanistic system and contains rich aesthetic value and profound cultural heritage. The Impressionist techniques inspired painters' interest in bright colours. For example, bright red and yellow colours are often seen in Wu Guanzhong's works. This use of colour not only enriches the layers of the picture, but also breaks the single colour tone of traditional ink painting.

The light and shadow processing techniques of Impressionism have been borrowed by Chinese painters. The application of Impressionist colour techniques in Chinese painting has also promoted the changes in brushstrokes. Impressionist painters often use short and quick brushstrokes to capture the instantaneous light and shadow effects. This brushstroke is used in Chinese oil paintings to enhance the dynamic and instantaneous nature of the picture. When depicting natural scenery, painters combine traditional sketching and dotting techniques with Impressionist short brushstrokes to make the picture more vivid and expressive.

The specific influence of impressionist colour expression in contemporary Chinese paintings

Impressionist colour techniques have had a profound impact on contemporary Chinese paintings, making Chinese paintings more colourful and vibrant in colour expression. Based on inheriting traditional ink painting techniques, modern Chinese painters have absorbed the essence of impressionist colour application, making their works present a diversified and modern appearance. Impressionist painters use the method of direct colouring with pure colours through delicate observation of natural light and colour to show the rich changes of colours. For example, the colourful and contrasting scenes in the works of Liu Haisu and Wu Guanzhong show the profound influence of Impressionism on them, making the works more vivid and impactful.

The Impressionists' delicate treatment of light and shadow effects has also profoundly influenced the creation of contemporary Chinese paintings. When appreciating landscape paintings, viewers tend to look at areas with rich textures or dark colours. When appreciating Chinese paintings, viewers will pay attention to the poems and seals in the paintings. Viewers' evaluation of landscape paintings is significantly higher than that of figure paintings, and higher than that of portrait paintings (Liu et al., 2020). Impressionist painters are good at expressing the subtle changes of light and shadow through the superposition and contrast of colours. Contemporary Chinese painters have borrowed this technique in their creations, making the picture more layered and the light and shadow effects more three-dimensional. For example, Zhang Daquan's splash-colour landscape paintings show the layered changes of light and shadow through the gradual change and superposition of colours, giving the picture a strong sense of space and three-dimensionality.

The Impressionist brushstroke technique has also been applied and developed in contemporary Chinese painting. Impressionist painters often use short and quick brushstrokes to capture the instantaneous light and shadow effects. This technique makes the picture dynamic and expressive. In their creations, contemporary Chinese painters combine traditional sketching and dotting techniques with Impressionist short brushstrokes to make the picture more vivid and expressive. For example, Huang Binhong's landscape paintings incorporate impressionist brushstroke techniques, giving the works a strong sense of dynamics and instantaneity. This fusion of Eastern and Western art has promoted the innovation and development of Chinese painting in colour expression, light and shadow processing, and brushstroke expression, and has injected new vitality and inspiration into the development of contemporary Chinese art.

Artistic forms and expression techniques of contemporary Chinese painting

Based on inheriting traditional painting techniques and concepts, contemporary Chinese painting has integrated the innovative elements of modern art, forming a rich variety of artistic forms and expression techniques. The following is an analysis from two aspects: artistic form and expression techniques. In terms of artistic form, contemporary Chinese painting has undergone a variety of integrations, such as the integration of tradition and modernity, and cross-border integration. For oil painting creation, various creative forms have emerged and have been used by artists of all ages. In today's era of rapid development, the form of oil painting creation has also opened a new chapter. Oil painting creation has begun to combine with the technology of the new era and the image era, making oil paintings show the artistic characteristics of the current era. The application of new media image processing technology to oil painting creation is a trend. Images have become an important part of society (Xu & An, 2023). These images reproduce a certain situation for us.

Contemporary Chinese painters often combine traditional brush and ink techniques with modern painting concepts in their creations, retaining the essence of traditional themes such as landscapes, flowers and birds, and figures, and incorporating modern abstract and expressionist artistic styles. For example, Liu Guosong's works have added modern abstract expression techniques to traditional ink paintings, making the works have both traditional charm and modernity. This cross-border integration not only broadens the expression field of Chinese painting, but also makes it more diverse and inclusive in modern art. For example, Cai Guoqiang's gunpowder painting combines traditional Chinese ink painting techniques with gunpowder blasting effects to create a unique visual effect.

In contemporary Chinese painting, conceptual art has gradually occupied an important position. Painters no longer focus only on painting techniques and forms but express their thoughts and ideas through their works. This form of conceptual art is becoming more and more common in contemporary Chinese painting, giving the works a deeper meaning. In terms of expression techniques, contemporary Chinese painting is bolder and more diverse in the use of colours, breaking through the limitations of traditional Chinese painting in single or few tones, absorbing the colour theory and techniques in Western modern painting, and forming a distinct visual effect. For example, Zhang Daqian's splash-colour landscape painting creates a strong visual impact through strong colours and bold splashing techniques. Painters try different materials and tools, such as brushes, spray guns, seals, etc., to create unique textures and effects. For example, Huang Binhong's landscape painting is vigorous and powerful, with rich layers of ink, showing a strong personal style.

Contemporary Chinese painting breaks the traditional rules in composition and focuses on the overall effect and sense of form of the picture. Painters boldly try various novel composition forms to enhance the visual impact and expressiveness of the works. For example, Pan Tianshou's works are bold and innovative in composition, often leaving large blank spaces on the picture, forming a strong visual contrast and a unique sense of space. For example, Jin Shangyi uses a variety of materials and techniques in his creations, such as traditional rice paper and ink, modern oil paints and canvas, to form a unique artistic style. Contemporary Chinese painting continues to inherit the essence of tradition and incorporating elements of modern art. This fusion and innovation have given Chinese contemporary painting art new vitality on the global art stage and become an important bridge connecting tradition and modernity, the East and the West.

Analysis of Artists' Practice Cases

In contemporary Chinese painting, many artists have combined the colour techniques of Impressionism with traditional Chinese painting through practical innovation to create works with unique styles. Below are several representative artists I have selected to analyze their practice cases.

Case 1:

Zhang Daqian (1899-1983) is a famous Chinese painting master of modern times, known as the "Pen of the East". Based on traditional Chinese painting, he absorbed elements of Western modern painting, especially the colour techniques of Impressionism. In his "Splash Colour Landscape" series, he used the splash colour technique to splash strong colours on the canvas, combined with the composition and brushwork of traditional landscape painting, to create a strong visual impact.



Image 4: Splash Colour Landscape by Zhang Daqian

Features of his works: bright colours, vivid brushstrokes, often through large areas of splashing colours and ink, creating rich layers and magnificent picture effects. Technical analysis: bold use of high-saturation colours, breaking through the single tone of traditional Chinese painting, drawing on the colour expression techniques of Impressionism, making the picture more vivid and lively. In terms of composition, it focuses on the overall layout, and creates a profound sense of space and rich picture levels through the layered changes of colours. In terms of techniques, it inherits traditional brush and ink techniques and innovatively incorporates Western colour concepts, making the works have both traditional charm and modern sense.

Case 2:

Dong Xiwen (1910-1975) was a famous Chinese oil painter and art educator in the 20th century and is known as one of the founders of modern Chinese oil painting. He studied in France and was influenced by European modern art. He is particularly good at expressing figures and landscapes.

One of his representative works is "Spring Comes to Tibet", which uses rich colours and delicate brushstrokes to depict the vast grassland and snow-capped mountains in the distance, reflecting his love for nature and life, as well as his sensitive capture of the changes in light and shadow.



Image 5: Spring Comes to Tibet by Dong Xiwen

Features of his works: The style combines the techniques of Western modern art and the emotional expression of traditional Chinese painting, especially in the use of colour and composition, with a unique personal style. His works usually have deep humanistic emotions and social concerns and try to combine the expression of Western art with the spiritual connotation of Chinese culture.

Technical analysis: Good at using the heavy texture of oil painting and the rich changes in colour, through layered and mottled brushstrokes, to show the depth and three-dimensional sense of the work. The changing colours can not only show the delicacy of realism, but also use abstract techniques to strengthen the emotional expression and aesthetic effect of the work.

Case 3:

Lin Fengmian (1900-1991) was an outstanding Chinese oil painter and printmaker in the 20th century, famous for his unique expression of characters and landscapes. He studied art in France and was deeply influenced by European Impressionism and modern art. His works are full of romantic emotions and spirit.

One of Lin Fengmian's representative works is "Dramatic Characters", which expresses the dramatic life and unexpected surprises in life through warm tones and rich brushstrokes, demonstrating his unique style and profound attainments in artistic expression and emotional expression.



Image 6: Dramatic Characters by Lin Fengmian

Features of his works: mainly delicate brushstrokes and romantic colours, focusing on the expression of emotions and the reflection of the inner world. He is good at capturing the changes in light and shadow and the delicate depiction of the emotions of characters, showing a rich atmosphere of life and emotional colours.

Technical analysis: Use the lightness and richness of oil paint to express the sense of space and atmosphere of the picture, while paying attention to the fine processing of lines and shapes. Through the changes in colour and the delicate brushstrokes, the emotional tension and visual effects of the work are expressed, giving the work the charm of brush and ink and the depth of emotion.

DISCUSSION and INTERPRETATION

Impact and Significance

The application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting has not only had a profound impact on artistic creation, but also demonstrated its unique significance in many aspects. This technique emphasizes light and shadow effects and colour contrast, making the paintings more modern and profound. The colour concept of impressionism has injected new life and

aesthetic value into contemporary Chinese painting, enriching the audience's perception and understanding of the works. Most importantly, this cross-cultural artistic exchange has promoted the integration and development of Eastern and Western art, and contributed to the diversity and world vision of contemporary art.

The introduction of impressionist colour techniques has promoted the integration of traditional Chinese painting and modern art. Throughout the history of oil painting, traditional and modern elements have always been two important parts of oil painting creation. Traditional elements include classic depiction techniques, colour theory and various rules. The accumulation of these experiences has become the basis for later generations to learn. Modern elements represent innovation and breakthroughs, including minimalist forms, surreal expression techniques, critical reality, and attention to human concepts. The application of traditional and modern elements in oil painting creation and their mutual promotion and collision. The artistic charm of oil painting lies in the harmonious coexistence of its traditional and modern elements. By innovatively using traditional painting techniques and incorporating modern elements, oil paintings have both historical heritage and can reflect the characteristics of contemporary society. This has important guiding value for a deeper understanding and development of oil painting art (Zhang, 2024). This expansion not only enhances the artistic value of the works, but also provides a new direction for the development of Chinese painting.

The application of impressionist colour techniques gives artists more choices and possibilities in their creation. Different artists can choose suitable techniques to create according to their own creative ideas and styles, which enhances the personalized expression of their works. Through the reference and innovation of impressionist techniques, a variety of artistic styles have been formed. This diversified style not only shows the richness of Chinese painting, but also shows the unique charm of Chinese art on the international art stage.

Impact on Contemporary Chinese Painting

The use of colour by the Impressionists emphasizes the instantaneous changes of light and shadow and the visual effects of colour. This concept has revolutionized the traditional colour expression of Chinese painting. Artists began to explore the potential of colour in emotional expression and visual impact and promoted the diversified development of Chinese painting in the use of colour. Impressionist colour techniques such as pointillism, splashing colour, and light and shadow processing methods have been borrowed and innovated by many Chinese artists. With the development of modern society and the deepening of cultural exchanges, folk art elements have gradually been integrated into modern art creation, providing artists with a new way of expression and creative ideas. The application of folk art elements in modern art creation is mainly expressed through the expression form and aesthetic characteristics of folk art (Wang, 2023). In the field of art education, the introduction of impressionist colour techniques has prompted teachers to pay more attention to the learning and application of colour in teaching. The application of impressionist colour techniques in Chinese painting has promoted the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western art. Through research and practice, students not only understand the development process of Western art, but also learn to combine it with traditional Chinese art to create new art forms.

The application of impressionist colour techniques has enriched the artistic language of Chinese painting and made the works more attractive in the art market. This change expands the influence of Chinese painting works in the international market. With the application of impressionist techniques in Chinese painting, many exhibitions began to display works that combine Chinese and Western techniques, attracting more attention from the audience. This diversified exhibition format not only enriches the content of art exhibitions, but also promotes the audience's diversified understanding of art.

Artistic innovation and expansion of expression techniques

In contemporary Chinese painting, the application of impressionist colour techniques demonstrates profound innovation and expansion of expression techniques. Artists are no longer limited to imitating the visual effects of impressionism but integrate their colour expression into the intersection of personal style and contemporary aesthetics.

The use of colour in impressionism emphasises light and shadow effects and sensory experience. Through this technique, contemporary artists can not only capture the changes in light and the atmosphere of the seasons when depicting natural landscapes, but also use the changes and contrasts of colours in abstract works to create rich and three-dimensional visual effects. This delicate colour observation and expression method makes the works more vivid and profound. The innovation of impressionist colour techniques lies in their application in diverse media. From traditional oil paintings to contemporary digital art and installation art, artists explore the expression of colour in different media. For example, through the high control of digital technology and the enhancement of visual effects, artists are able to create more modern and technological colour works, giving viewers a new visual experience.

The impressionist colour technique also demonstrates the integration of culture and times in contemporary Chinese painting. Artists incorporate traditional Chinese cultural elements or contemporary social issues into their works, and explore the relationship between individuals and the environment, tradition and modernity through the rich changes in colours and the expression of emotions. This deep integration of culture makes the works not only have aesthetic value, but also have profound cultural implications and social reflections.

The innovation of Impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting and the expansion of expression methods have not only enriched the artistic expression and visual effects, but also deepened the emotional and ideological connotations behind the works. This continuous exploration and experimentation have injected new vitality and creativity into Chinese contemporary art, and promoted the continuous expansion and deepening of the boundaries of art.

CONCLUSION and OUTLOOK

Summary

The application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting shows the results of the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western art. This technique provides new possibilities for the innovation and development of contemporary Chinese painting. Contemporary Chinese painters can express nature and life realistically and convey rich emotions and artistic connotations. In future creations, continuing to explore and innovate impressionist colour techniques will provide important support for the further development of Chinese painting and the enhancement of its international influence.

Future Prospects for the Application of Impressionist Colour Techniques in Contemporary Chinese Painting

The prospects for the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting can be considered from these aspects:

1. Personalized expression and innovation: Contemporary Chinese artists tend to add personal style and innovation to traditional techniques. The use of impressionist colours emphasizes sensory experience and emotional expression. Artists can explore personal perspectives and emotional expressions in this way to create more personalized works.
2. Fusion of culture and times: In today's globalization, artists pay more attention to reflecting the integration of local culture and contemporary life in their works. Impressionist colour techniques can

serve as a bridge to help artists express China's unique emotions and cultural connotations, while integrating the aesthetic needs and visual language of contemporary society.

3. Diversification of technology and media: When using impressionist colour techniques, contemporary artists are not limited to traditional oil painting media, but can also combine digital art, installation art and other forms. This diverse use of media expands the expression of art and makes the application of colour in works richer and more diverse.

4. Changes and needs of audience aesthetics: As the audience's aesthetic needs art, it gradually becomes more diverse and personalized, artists have more room to try and innovate. Impressionist colour techniques can better cater to modern audiences' pursuit of emotional expression and sensory experience through their strong sensory experience and emotional expression. The outlook for the application of impressionist colour techniques in contemporary Chinese painting is a trend of diversification, personalization and innovation. Artists can use this technique, combined with contemporary visual language and cultural context, to create more expressive and appealing works of art.

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