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Study on Blank (Breath) in Calligraphy Composition

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Abstract: From the perspective of philosophy and calligraphy aesthetics, this paper analyzes the elaboration of blank-leaving by theorists in the past dynasties, introduces the significance of blank-leaving, and analyzes the methods of blank-leaving. There are five main methods of leaving blank : leaving blank in the word, leaving blank in the edge of the word, leaving blank between the words, leaving blank between the lines, leaving blank space. And the analysis of the blank method with specific works is of reference significance for improving the level of calligraphy and composition.

Keywords: Blank; Chinese Calligraphy; Art of Composition

1. Introduction

Blank is also called *Bubai* in calligraphy. Twenty-eight chapters of *Laozi:* Know its white, keep its black, for the world. The law of Blank is derived from knowing white and keeping black, calculating white and keeping black. Blank is not only a blank in form, but also a rich ideological embodiment. The retention of Qi in calligraphy originates from the philosophy of Qi. The ancients believed that Qi is the origin of all things, and the blank space in calligraphy is the continuation and display of Qi.

2. Appreciation of the Application of Blank

As shown in Figure 1, the word 'Dao' is in the lead, the word 'Fa' is narrowed and left blank, and then the word 'Nature' gradually increases, forming a small to large arrangement, and a sense of perspective appears. The small words on the left side are densely arranged, which is in contrast to the density on the left side. Tolerance and cleverness appear. Wang Xizhi, a calligrapher in the Han Dynasty, mentioned in the preface to 'Lanting Collection' that calligraphy works should be 'inclusive and flexible' , and leaving blank is to make the works more inclusive and flexible. The lingering breath in calligraphy is not only the grasp of space, but also the perception of time. The blank space seems to contain endless possibilities.

Figure 1. Dao Fa Zi Ran

As shown in Figure 2, lingering breath is no longer a simple blank, but the embodiment of the ideological depth and artistic appeal of calligraphy works. The leap of 'Lai' and the occupation of the word 'shan' make the space comfortable and complement each other with the artistic conception of poetry. This transformation makes the connotation of liuqi richer, which not only inherits the essence of ancient times, but also integrates contemporary creativity. In contemporary calligraphy works, keeping breath is no longer just the application of techniques, but the sustenance of emotions and the sublimation of thoughts.

Figure 2. Ti Xi Lin Bi

Many calligraphers have formed a new calligraphy aesthetics by expressing their perception of life and awe of nature. The existence of breath allows the viewer to feel the author's emotional fluctuations in that blank when appreciating the work, prompting a profound interaction between the viewer and the work.

3. Calligraphy Blank has Important Research Significance in Chinese Calligraphy

Blank space gives people an ethereal beauty, smooth breathing and imaginary space to meet people's physiological and psychological needs, forming a unique aesthetic pleasure.

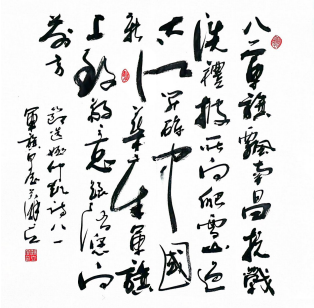

Figure 3. Selected Poems by Yao Zhongkai

Blank space also has a strong expressive and symbolic significance. The significance of leaving blank is not only reflected in the level of individual works, but also plays an important role in the inheritance and development of calligraphy. The study of blank space is not limited to the art of calligraphy itself, but also extends to the dialogue and blending between calligraphy and other art forms. Under the background of the diversity and openness of contemporary art, the blank-leaving art of calligraphy can communicate with painting, design, installation art and other forms to form a new way of artistic expression.

4. Different Ways of Leaving Blank

Different ways of leaving blank will produce different aesthetic feelings of calligraphy. In order to facilitate the narration, this paper divides the blank space into five types: blank space in the word, blank space in the edge of the word, blank space between the words, blank space between the lines and blank space in the length.

4.1 Blank Space in the Word

The 'flying white' in the strokes, the silky white in the strokes, and the pen passed quickly and powerfully from the paper, and there was a strong emotion. As shown in Figure 4, 'You' , 'shan' , 'Hai' . The closed space caused by the intersection and connection between the strokes in the single word also exists in the winding closed space formed by the rotation and intersection of the same line. Like the 'Xin' in Figure-4. Under the influence of white space in words, the visual effect of calligraphy works can be improved. The size, the middle palace and the structural form reflect the aesthetic tendency of the writer. Calligraphy is not only the writing of words, but also the transmission of emotions and thoughts. The art of leaving blank is actually an indispensable part of calligraphy creation. It can guide the viewer's line of sight, create a sense of space and rhythm, and make the work contain a sense of movement in static state. The closed space formed by leaving blank is not only the internal structure of calligraphy works, but also the external expression of calligrapher's emotion.

Figure 4. Xin You Shan Hai

4.2 Blank Margin

Blank margin. That is, in a single word or a word group, except for the white space in the word, it is attached to the blank part of the outer edge of the line trend.

In the creation of cursive script, the margin is particularly important, because the cursive script emphasizes a smooth and natural writing state. As shown in Figure 5, the blank space of the four words of 'You Huai' not only plays a role in eliminating the sense of visual crowding, but more importantly, it can guide the viewer's line of sight and make it produce a sense of rhythm and rhythm in the overall reading. This sense of rhythm comes from the sense of space created by the margin. By leaving the blank, the whole appears light, forming a 'moving' aesthetic feeling.For Example:

Figure 5. You Huai

In addition, the character margin also reflects the character and emotion of the calligrapher to some extent. The amount, position and form of blank space are often closely related to the calligrapher's inner feelings and understanding

of life.

Blank margin is not only an important part of calligraphy art, but also a carrier of emotional expression and cultural inheritance of calligraphers. Through the ingenious use of space, it enhances the expressiveness of glyphs and enriches the connotation of calligraphy. It can be seen that the importance of word margin in cursive writing is not only reflected in the visual level, but also profoundly affects the creation and appreciation of calligraphy, which has become an indispensable key factor in exploring the art of calligraphy.

4.3 Blank between Words

White space between words refers to the very obvious separated space between words or phrases, and also refers to the spacing between lines. Most of them are open, creating conditions for reading. As shown in Figure 1, the size of the area not only affects the reading, but also directly affects the aesthetic effect of the work. It not only provides a breathing space visually, but also creates a comfortable reading experience for readers psychologically. This design strategy is particularly important in typesetting and layout design, because it can guide the reader's attention and enhance the readability of the text. The modern design concept emphasizes the effectiveness of information transmission, and the white space between words is one of the important means to achieve this goal.

4.4 Blank between Lines

Blank between lines is the blank position between lines, which is the embodiment of the practical value of calligraphy works. Clear white space between lines is conducive to reading. Therefore, in most calligraphy works, the white space between lines is larger than the white space between words, so as to achieve a clear effect. As shown in Figure 6, the white space between words is the same as that between lines, forming the distribution characteristics of vertical no column and horizontal no line. There is even a treatment that the white space between words is much larger than the white space between lines.

Figure 6. Qiang Jinjiu

Clear white space between lines is conducive to reading. Therefore, in most calligraphy works, the white space between lines is larger than the white space between words, so as to achieve a clear effect. However, in many literati calligraphy works, there are also blank spaces between words and lines, forming the distribution characteristics of vertical no column and horizontal no line. There is even a way in which the white space between words is much larger than the white space between lines, so that the viewer's eyes can flow freely between words, thus enhancing the integrity and hierarchy of the work.

4.5 Space Blank

Space blank is a large area of blank space formed by the composition and format from the perspective of the whole writing space. This kind of blank space belongs to the open space, which is in sharp contrast to the writing part of pen and ink, and is an indispensable part of calligraphy works. A large area of white space, the creation of calligraphy Zen. This kind of blank is not only a visual blank, but also a psychological quiet and thinking space. As shown in Figure 7, the 'Shan Shui' two-character large blank, for the audience to provide a wealth of imagination. The blank space in the art of calligraphy reminds us that we also need to leave blank space appropriately in life, giving ourselves space to think and relax. Through the understanding and application of blank space, we can better face the pressure and challenges in life and find our own inner peace.

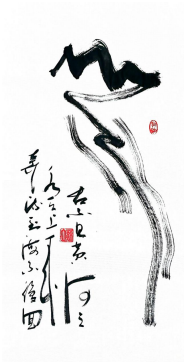

Figure 6. Shan Shui

5. Conclusion

The large area of blank space in the art of calligraphy is not only the choice of techniques,

but also the profound cultural expression and philosophical thinking. It shows the unique charm and profound connotation of calligraphy through the interaction with the viewer, the dialectics of nothingness, the inner dialogue in the process of creation, the harmony of the whole composition and the reflection on modern life. Therefore, leaving blank is not only the artistic technique of calligraphy, but also an important bridge between mind and art, tradition and modernity.

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