

Dhyana Painting







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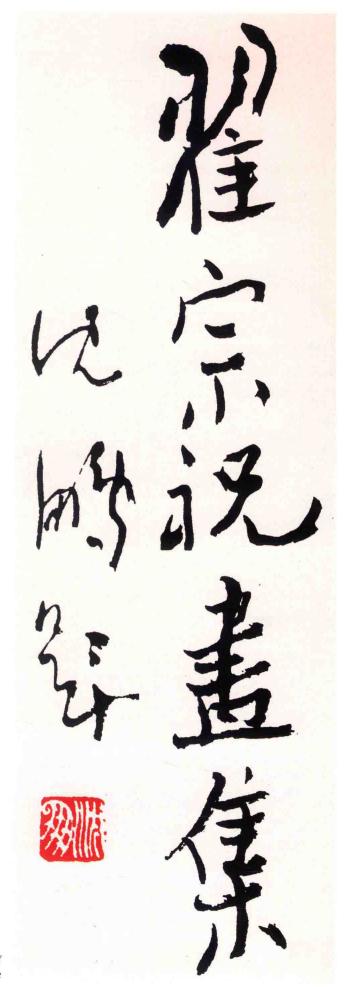
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目录 Directory

若识本心 即识斯画	春花/夏荷46
中央电视台《写意人生——翟宗祝》解说词… 9	秋菊/冬梅47
佛祖拈花16	飞来石48
菩提本无树17	烟消云散49
面壁18	没骨山水50
西域取经19	瓶花51
山光悦鸟性20	再见, 故乡52
花似锦21	无尘53
云深不知处22	花丛中54
变幻无常23	野渡无舟55
黑色的梦24	马上行56
飘逝的云25	野花朵朵57
溪水无波26	蓝山58
青海湖27	似水年华59
色不空28	沙漠之舟60
写意人生29	山村之夏61
梦中少年30	秋山图62
纣王与宠妃31	山下白杨63
出浴32	空与实之一/空与实之二64
人与自然33	千里之行65
暗香34	瑞祥66
二月花35	云山图67
花季36	山村暮色68
花开花落37	烟雨江南69
原生态风景38	野花70
洛神39	丛中笑71
空山鸟语40	春雪72
故乡的小河41	高山仰止之一73
大地祥云42	高山仰止之二74
夏山图43	春山池水人家75
醉江南44	后记76
1. 3.37	



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目录 Directory

若识本心 即识斯画3	春花/夏荷46
中央电视台《写意人生——翟宗祝》解说词… 9	秋菊/冬梅47
佛祖拈花16	飞来石48
菩提本无树17	烟消云散49
面壁18	没骨山水50
西域取经19	瓶花51
山光悦鸟性20	再见, 故乡52
花似锦21	无尘53
云深不知处22	花丛中54
变幻无常23	野渡无舟55
黑色的梦24	马上行56
飘逝的云25	野花朵朵57
溪水无波26	蓝山58
青海湖27	似水年华59
色不空28	沙漠之舟60
写意人生29	山村之夏61
梦中少年30	秋山图62
纣王与宠妃31	山下白杨63
出浴32	空与实之一/空与实之二64
人与自然33	千里之行65
暗香34	瑞祥66
二月花35	云山图67
花季36	山村暮色68
花开花落37	烟雨江南69
原生态风景38	野花70
洛神39	丛中笑71
空山鸟语40	春雪72
故乡的小河41	高山仰止之一73
大地祥云42	高山仰止之二74
夏山图43	春山池水人家75
醉江南44	后记76
1. 1. 27	

若识本心 即识斯画

——评翟宗祝现代禅画

观赏了翟宗祝先生创作的所谓禅画作品,颇有感触。

禅是什么, 禅是一种思维, 又称心禅。禅宗认为"菩提只向心觅", "若识本心, 即是解脱"(坛经)。禅宗以一种神秘的直觉体验, 把天国移植到人的心中, 从而揭示了一条"瞬间即永恒"的相对真理, 这种所谓"空的智慧"不仅在古代, 即使在现代对于人们来说, 同样也是一种有益的精神启示。

真正的禅宗,实际上是在唐初由慧能创立。诗人、画家王维也是南宗禅的门徒之一,因为他的思维确实进入了南宗禅的境地,所以,在他的诗和画中也都有一种盎然的禅意。禅宗出现之后,产生了巨大的影响,禅宗艺术也就出现了。唐至清末的几乎所有著名学者、文人和画家都研究过禅学,把禅宗哲理融化进艺术创作,创造了许多优秀的"禅诗"、"禅画",产生了严羽以禅论诗的名著《沧浪诗话》,出现了牧溪、玉涧等那样典型的禅画家,不仅闻名国内,即在日本足利时代后的画家也多受其影响。禅宗文化不仅对中国美术的发展产生了深远的影响,而且今天也传播到西方世界,并日益引起全世界的关注,成为人类共同的精神财富。但在上世纪中叶后,神州艺苑禅园中时分。近年来,禅画"幽灵"又在现代艺苑中游荡起来。不过现代禅画已脱尽了古代的审美躯壳,并转化为揭示信息社会人们心灵奥秘的模糊美学新观念,和人的自我塑造新感觉。

什么是禅画?笔者在旧著《中国山水画史》一书中,论到牧溪的画时说:"它受了禅家'顿悟'精神的支配,犹如禅宗创始人六祖慧能撕经的精神一样,禅宗画蔑视一切'古法',只抒发自己自发的行为和直接而强烈的感受。而且禅画力求简练,不画名山大川,不画繁峦复岭,只画极普通的山头,且摒弃细节的刻画。这一切都和禅宗思想意义相通,所以,我们称它为'禅画'。"

程宗祝先生的画能否称之为禅画,我想暂且不必给它定性,因为禅无定论。禅画,特别是现代禅画就更难以确定一个统一的、规范的样式,但是有一点是可以肯定的,翟宗祝先生在较为系统地研究东方禅画的基础上,提出了现代禅画的新观念,同时又以自己的创作实践来企图证实自己的理论。当我们看到那些物外远致、含蓄隽永的作品,那扑朔迷离、朦胧恍惚、如云如梦、似幻似真的境界,似乎让我们进入了一个"空故纳万境"的深邃、博大、澄明的心灵世界。这不就是禅的魅力吗?禅画的魅力和奥秘就在于,凭借有限的艺术形象之"有",去具体表现那无限的人心原性之"无",达到色空不二,求得心灵的统一,迈向生命的圆满,创造生活的安详。因此,从这一意义上讲,我们避开对定义的考证和对翟宗祝先生作品的褒贬,把他的作品作为一种理论探索的图释,并称之为现代禅画,来探讨一下我国现代画坛所出现的异彩纷呈的新气象,我想这对繁荣我国的艺术创作是有益无害的。

下面就让我们来具体赏析一下翟宗祝先生的几幅被称之为现代禅画的作品,以辨其味吧!

《水中昙花》是一幅禅意醇厚的花卉作品。我国世俗总好把美好而又偶见



◎ 水中昙花



◎ 云山飘渺



◎ 浴女

即逝的现象称为"昙花一现"。这个词原出于佛家《法华经》:"佛告舍 利佛, 如是妙法, 诸佛如来, 时乃说之, 如优昙钵华, 时一现耳。""昙 花"原产于佛教故乡喜马拉雅山麓。禅宗认为,我们生活的现实,生 生灭灭, 短暂易逝, 犹如昙花一现, 人们应当在心灵世界中去追求一 个不生不灭、永恒常住的"真如"世界。人类无法在自然中保留昙花 的永恒的美,但通过人心本性可以去证悟昙花那美的永恒,并且借助 艺术去保留昙花的永恒美。画家为了表现那稍纵即逝的自然永恒美, 借用了现代印象派、抽象派的多种手法,没有对昙花形态和色彩作具 体描绘,画下的只是模糊的轮廓和色彩印象。同时对昙花审美直觉过 程中建构的意象,通过敷彩染墨,烘托其形态和色彩,造就一种既虚 幻又真实的境界。特别令人诧异的是画家的奇巧构思, 生长在陆地的 昙花竟然画进清澈涟漪的水中,这种一反常态的构思处理,不仅增加 了画面的虚幻感和流动感,而且更有空灵感。董其昌说:"摊烛下作画, 正如隔帘看月,隔水看花。"这正是懂得"隔"字在造成空灵飞动的美 感意境中的重要。隔水看花,造成了人与花的间隔和距离。人不沾不 滞,觉心空明,物孤立绝缘,自成境界。这样,人心容纳万物,万物漫 染人的性灵, 清水荡漾, 灵气往返, 物象呈现出生命灵魂, 而这正是激 发美感的契机。当艺术美的魅力令人身心舒畅、移情荡性时,难道我们 还不能进一步去体验那大千世界的奥秘和人生哲理的要义, 去证悟消 逝与永恒、存在与超越、此岸与彼岸、虚幻与真实的辩证统一吗?

《云山飘渺》是画家表现佛教众妙之门——色空不二之性的一幅禅画。

云和山是中国山水画最一般的传统题材。但翟宗祝先生在《云山飘渺》这幅画中,采取了轻快、简当、随意的写意手法,吸收了水彩画流动透明的表现技巧,从而赋予了新的禅意。云是气体,山是固体,这是两种不同的物态。画家借用云雾变幻无常的特性来描绘"色"亦即假相世界的易逝性,借用山体坚实稳定来描绘"空"亦即真相世界的永恒性。云依山则灵,山有云则活,云岫雾山,如真如幻,实中有虚,虚中有实。这种虚虚实实、似有似无的禅境,使人在惊叹大自然的神奇瑰丽的同时,也会领悟到现象与本质、客观物质世界与主观精神世界、有与无、色与空的辩证统一关系,获得心灵的平衡与生活的协调。

《浴女》是画家表现人的原貌和自他不二法门的一幅人物画。作者通过描绘在自然中沐浴的新女性来表现这个思想。《金刚经》说:"以无住本,立一切法。"这"无住"两字是"金刚经"的核心,要求女让心停留在任何地方,不让任何事物缠住自己的心。赤身露体的新女性沐浴去污,排除尘世的"业障",复归人的原貌,这不是达其"本心"的"无住"吗?"让一切保留她自然的美貌,她的皮肤未经其触,的骨骼未经撼摇,无需施朱,无需敷粉,她就是她,多么美妙!"铃木大拙和弗洛姆所著的《禅与心理分析》中这首禅诗,不正是对浴女内蕴的形象揭示吗?浴女形象正是"真如"境界的象征,是既存在为内蕴的形象报示吗?浴女形象正是"真如"境界的象征,是既存在为面又超越于变幻不定、残缺虚假的现象界之永恒常在、纯净圆满环境里的成长吗?按禅宗说法,凡夫俗子,未复本心,总是处在人与自然对立中,即自(人自身)他(物质世界)二性;一旦复归本心,见性



◎ 地上的云

成佛,人与自然则形成统一整体,即自他不二之性。这正是印度禅东传吸收儒、道两家"天人合一"思想后,形成中华禅宗的一大特色。画家为了表达这种境界,采取色彩与水墨的融汇,创造了一个空寂、粗犷、迷茫的洪荒世界,冷色调的背景与肉色的人体形成对比,人体的轮廓与背景的色彩时而清晰,时而模糊,使整个画面笼罩在若明若暗、如梦似真、原始而又现代的扑朔迷离氛围之中。人体与生存环境浑然一体,呈现出一种返朴归真的原始美。而这正是黄檗禅师经常讲的庄子的"天地与我并生,万物与我为一"的境界。这种宏大清明的境界的确令人神思遄飞:它在启示着人们去思索或寻找生命的解脱,复归本心,以求得客观假相和主观真相相统一的色空不二之法门。

禅的不二之性决定着禅的艺术特色具有两重性: 既具象又抽象, 既写实又超越, 既现实又虚幻, 既庄严又洒脱, 既有表层意象又有深 层底蕴。《地上的云》描绘的是现实中的花朵。在现实世界中, 地上本 无云,天上本无花,但在精神世界里,却有"天上的云,地上的花,地 上的云,天上的花"。这是一个多么美妙的意象。花开花落,云霞变幻, 它们相互对立, 但一切皆变, 又彼此相通。大自然中的一切是那样神 奇诡秘,令人目眩神迷,这不正是人间世态千变万化的写照吗?我们 把翟宗祝先生的画称之为现代禅画既非在赞颂他的作品完美无缺,也 不是在故弄玄虚,为他的作品标新立异,而是通过分析,我们确实窥 见出在他研究东方禅画的同时,禅的"幽灵"确已悄悄地飘进了他笔 下的艺术世界。就像他画的花,为了体现禅的不二之性,画家画一朵 花,绝不是对自然的摹仿,而是吸取了自然的灵性,融汇进禅意,从 潜意识中开放出来的心花,是从审美文化积淀中创造出来的意象,它 寄托着作者的美好愿望和审美理想。这样的画,如果否定存在,没有 具象、写实和庄严, 必将因脱离现实生活而沉空守寂, 无益于人们心 灵的救济,倘若不能超越,没有抽象、梦幻和洒脱,势必因困缚于现 象界彷徨迷惘而不能自拔, 无助于大众人文精神的升华。为了化禅入 画,翟宗祝先生不仅仅着眼于作品标题,通过文字构成联想,更重要 的是他将禅的观察方法, 化为作画的表现方法, 在艺术语言和艺术表 现手法上进行了大胆的探索和革新,形成了一种独特的风格。据画家 本人说,《地上的云》这幅画,为了把花与云的直观感受呈现在欣赏者 的眼里, 他充分利用中国宣纸的吸水、渗化性能, 采用多层重叠拓印 画法,利用水的渗化、色的渲染、纸的过滤、墨的衬托,将花的纯净、 ▮ 透明、轻柔、妩媚的特性, 最大限度地表现出来, 欣赏者不需要通过 作品标题也能产生一种联想。作品中花的直觉感受,如此轻柔、纯净, 只有天上的云霞才能和它相比。这种带有偶然性、随意性、独创性的 表现手法, 其本身不就是"顿悟"理论在绘画过程中的具体体现吗? 清初高僧担当和尚说:"画中无禅,唯画通禅。"画中本无禅,而翟宗 祝先生画中所体现的"顿悟"和画中的空寂、虚幻之意境和笔趣,正 是他意识中禅的外化, 见画而知禅, 知禅也更明其画。

"此中有真意,欲辨已忘言。"禅画的意蕴情趣,意会胜于言传。任何语言文字都有表达的局限性,"不立文字"是禅宗的一条宗旨。故他人"妄言"是很难表达翟宗祝先生作品的"真意"的。若识本心,即识斯画。禅画实质上也就是"心画",只要欣赏者用自己的心智去领悟,自会感受到翟宗祝先生作品那神秘动人的魅力。

The Light of Understanding:

Tien Zhu's Modern Dhyana Painting

By Chen Chuanxi



◎ 水中昙花 The Epiphyllum in water



◎ 云山飘渺 Clouds and Mountains in Mist

What's dhyana? The Buddhist Zen Sect holds: "Bodhionly exists in the mind; consciousness of the mind means extricating mind from body." Like a mysterious intuition, dhyana transplants the kingdom of Heaven into the mind, revealing the relative truth of "a twinkling being aneternity". This is called the "wisdom of hollowness", a spiritual revelation that is as beneficial to people in modern society as it was to those living in ancient times.

Dhyana art was founded by Hui Neng, the founder of Chinese dhyana, and Wang Wei, a poet and painter who produced landscape paintings and poems with abundant sense of dhyana, in the early Tang Dynasty. Since then, almost all wellknown scholars, literary men and artists from Tang Dynasty to the end of Qing Dynasty paid attention to the studyof dhyana which they then introduced into their approach to art, resulting in many outstanding "poems and paintings of dhyana". These art works have proved popular not only in China but have extended their influence to many artists in Japan also . The dhyana culture has made a far-reaching historic impact on the development of Chinese fine arts, and has also now spread to the Western world, becoming part of the universal spiritual wealth of mankind. Unfortunately dhyana paintings were stamped out within Chinese artistic circles in the middle of this century, but fortunately have reappeared in recent artistic endeavours. Modern dhyana paintings have cast off the traditional cloak of ancient aestheticism, transforming from a dreamlike world into a new world of ambiguous aestheticism in which the people of "this modern information" society probe the secrets of man's mind. Such is the work of Zhai ZongZhu whose paintings lead us to a world that is complex and obscure, magical and fluctuating. Looking at these paintings engenders feelings of grandness, brightness and the magic of dhyana. The secret and magic of dhyana paintings lie in that in spite of creating finite artistic forms they arrive at images expressing the infinite nature of man's mind in its original state, thus achieving unification between mind and spirit. To understand Zhai ZongZhu's modern dhyana paintings we should examine his specific works.

The Epiphyllum in Water was inspired by flowers and plants and contains a rich sense of dhyana. The Chinese people like to compare what is good, beautiful and transient to flowers such as the epiphyllum. The word epiphyllum is a Sanskrit term originating from the southern side of the Himalayas in India, associating things in life that bloom and die as fleetingly as epiphyllum and suggesting that man



◎ 浴女 The Showering Woman

should seek a world of eternity in his mind alone. Man cannot eternalise the beauty of epiphyllum in nature but in his mind can preserve the beauty of epiphyllum for eternity, and still recreate that beauty through art. To express the transient beauty of nature, Zhai ZongZhu does not give concrete form to the structure and colour of the epiphyllum. What he draws is only an obscure outline washed with colour suggesting the diverse approaches of Impressionist and Abstract schools. At the same time, infusing the imagery with an aesthetic intuition, he builds up a realm of illusion and reality in areas of colour and ink, with the inference of shading that adds great depth. The most astonishng aspect of the work is its marvellous composition. The epiphyllum originally grows on land, but has been painted against bright rippling water. This unusual treatment strengthens not only the illusion and movement of the surface of the picture but also its depth. Observing the flower, made to stand out by the water, one experiences a sense of distance from the flower, yet it permeates the mind which becomes an open space with the capacity of holding all things on earth. On the other hand, the flower as depicted in the painting is isolated and forms a world in itself that infiltrates the mind. The water undulates and ripples, representing the essence of life, and aesthetic inspiration is kindled. Under the spell of art, one feels carefree and joyous, able to further observe and learn the secrets of the boundless universe and the essence of human philosophy, and to prove and enlighten the dialectical unity between the finite and the eternal, between existence and transcendence, between this shore and the far shore, and between illusion and reality.

Clouds and Mountains in Mist expresses the concept of Buddhist dhyana. Clouds and mountains are the subject matter of Chinese traditional landscape painting, but this painting endowed with a new sense of dhyana by Zhai ZongZhu's freehand brushwork and the combination of the motion and transparency of water-colour painting. The misty clouds contrast to the solidity and eternity suggested by the stability of the mountains. Only by relying on the mountains can the clouds reveal their wisdom; mountains only assume a vivid and lifelike air with the existence of clouds. The mountains and clouds in union seem magical and fluctuating, true but not true, false but not false. Wondering at this magnificent sight of nature one comprehends the appearance and essence of dhyana in the world, and aided by it, achieves a balance of mind and harmony of life.

"The showering Woman" is a figurative painting through which the artist mani-



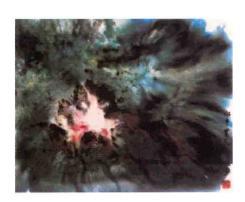
◎ 地上的云 A cloud on the ground

fests man's primary nature, as the one and the only link between man and nature. To express this idea, theartist presents a modern woman bathing in nature. The natural colour is restored to the nudity of this modern woman as she rids herself of worldly dust. This figure of woman without makeup is a symbol of a pure world. The word "bathing" in Chinese precisely suggests that man can grow in a pure environment. According to the dhyana school, mortality will always be the conflict between man and nature until he restores his true nature and finds true harmony again. This way of thinking has become one of the outstanding features of Chinese dhyana, deriving from Indian dhyana which was then absorbed into the philosophy of "Heaven and Man Combining into One" by the Confucianists and the Taoists. To express this feature, the artist employs the technique of blending colour with ink, creating a vast world of stillness, roughness and haziness with cold colour that contrasts against warm flesh. The colour of the outline and background of the figure is sometimes clear and sometimes ambiguous; the general picture is shrouded in a complicated and confusing atmosphere between brightness and dimness, dream and reality, primitive and modern.

The artistic feature of dhyana has a dual nature: specific and abstract; realistic and aloof; practical and illusionary. The painting A Cloud on the Ground presents a flower in reality. In the world of reality, there are no clouds on the ground, nor flowers in the sky. But in the world of mind, there are not only clouds in the sky and flowers on earth, but the freedom for anything to exist anywhere. What a wonderful imagination! Flowers blossom and fall; Clouds form and disperse -- they change but at the same time they communicate with each other. The dazzling wonders and secrets in nature are the reflection of the changing world. In drawing a flower Zhai ZongZhu by no means imitates nature but catches the essence of nature, melting dhyana into his painting. As a result, the flower he draws is none other than the one blossoming from his heart, from his sub consciousness. The painting is a reflection of the artist's hope and aesthetic ideal.

The artistic concept of dhyana painting can be sensed, but not explained in words. One has to be conscious of the mind before comprehending Zhai ZongZhu's paintings. The painting of dhyana is created directly by heart. So long as one can comprehend them in the mind, the secrets and charm of Zhai ZongZhu's paintings will reveal themselves to the heart.

中央电视台《写意人生——翟宗祝》解说词



◎ 扑朔迷离,朦胧恍惚 Implicit and mysterious



◎ 纵横挥洒,酣畅淋漓 Unconstrained and ajestic



他的作品糅合多种元素,自成一派,在作画时他下笔有神,挥洒自如, 在构思时,他思维活跃、天马行空。他采用的是画国画的宣纸、颜料,画出 来的作品却不是传统中国画的效果,却也不完全相仿西方的油画、水彩画。 他的作品中蕴含的是绘画艺术所融汇的美的本质。

他就是著名彩墨画家翟宗祝。

翟宗祝,笔名天竹。1938年,翟宗祝出生在安徽省巢湖市,1960年毕业于原皖南大学艺术科,分配到原合肥师范学院任教育系教师。1978年后任安徽师范大学美术系教授、系主任。中国美术家协会会员、安徽省美术家协会理事。

幼年时期的他就很喜欢绘画。1958年翟宗祝考上了梦寐以求的原皖南大学艺术科,学习师范专业。也正是从此,翟宗祝结下了他与美术的不解之缘。

于皖南大学艺术科毕业之后翟宗祝毅然走上了讲台,开始了他的艺术教育工作。出于特殊的历史原因,翟宗祝早期并没有能够始终坚持艺术创作,更多的是把他的先进理论和个人心得,有条不紊地传授给他的学生们。即便如此,他的作品《雾破山明》《昭君出塞》仍分别参加了第一届、第二届全国水彩、水粉画展,并广受好评。

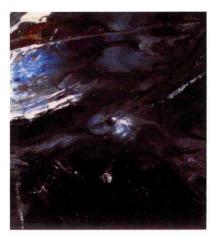
随着改革开放的步伐在全国大步迈开,新中国文化艺术界也终于再度活跃了起来。当时已是安徽师范大学艺术系主任的翟宗祝在繁重的教学、行政



◎ 如烟如梦,似幻似真 Visionary and verisimilar



◎ 雾破山明 Mountains Coming out of the Vanishing Fog



◎ "彩"与"墨" "Color" vs "Ink"



◎ 作者年轻时 At younger age

工作之余,还挤出时间来坚持绘画创作。他先后画过水彩画、油画等,后干脆将西方的水彩画与传统的中国画相融合,并逐渐形成了具有鲜明的个人特色的"彩墨画",并创作了许多优秀作品。他的彩墨画,不局限于具象的事物表达,欣赏的是一种直触心灵的意境升华。

翟宗祝教授不仅教学经验丰富,而且著述颇丰。他的《蓝色画廊》系列丛书,著名文化学者余秋雨作序,对美术理论的研究和推动有着不可磨灭的作用。他还运用了中国国画传统的没骨画法来进行创作。所谓"没骨画法"是中国画中由来已久的一个传统画法,自徐熙、徐崇嗣祖孙创始,至今已有一千多年历史。但历史上的"没骨法"只局限于花卉,翟宗祝的山水画也采用"没骨法",没有皴、擦,也没有点、染,但却有中国传统艺术的神韵,和西方绘画的构图和色彩,堪称东方的风景画。

翟宗祝教授汇集多年的教育和国内外艺术领域交流的经验,出版了很多学术著作。他在彩墨画领域具有非常高的造诣,并有《彩墨画新技法》等著作出版发行。他的彩墨画自成一派,观点新颖,理论与实践高度统一,在彩墨画领域是一朵奇异的花。

翟宗祝教授的彩墨画据著述方法众多,但最主要的是运用一种叫"拓印"的绘画方式,即将一张宣纸用清水打湿,然后根据心中的意象,用斗笔调和墨与颜料,纵情挥洒,快速作画,乘未干时将另一张生宣覆盖其上,尽量让墨与色彩从底下的宣纸渗透到上面一层纸上,画好后揭开上面覆盖的宣纸,



◎ 蓝色画廊 "Rlue Gallery" series



◎ 清代恽南田没骨花卉作品 The Qing dynasty Yun NaTian flowers



◎ 东方的风景画 Oriental landscape painting



◎ 彩墨画技法 New Techniques of InkandColor painting



◎ 把宣纸湿透,用斗笔蘸彩墨迅速铺色调 Dampen a piece of Xuan paper dip the brush into mixed ink and color and draw freely and quickly



◎ 巧夺天工, 妙手天成 Art of Nature

上面一层纸上所呈现出来的画面再稍加润色就是作者所创作的画作了。运用这种拓印的方法来进行绘画创作,作品具有很强的偶然性,一幅优秀作品的完成,可以称得上是真正意义上的巧夺天工,妙手天成。

翟宗祝教授是一位颇有创意的画家,同时也是一位很有见地的美术理论家,他不仅提出了关于"彩墨画"、"现代禅画"的新概念,又以自己作品实践来论证他的艺术思想,完美地把理论研究和艺术创作结合起来,是他在艺术道路上取得成功的重要秘诀。

翟宗祝教授在较为系统地研究东方禅画的基础上,提出了现代禅画的新观念,同时又以自己的创作实践来证实自己的理论,这种大胆的试验精神非常值得肯定。当我们看到那些物外远致、含蓄隽永的作品,那扑朔迷离、朦胧恍惚、如云如梦、似幻似真的境界,似乎让我们进入了一个"空故纳万境"的深邃、博大、澄明的心灵世界。他的著作《东方禅画》也在学术界有着深远的影响。

翟宗祝的彩墨世界孕育于中国传统,借鉴于西方的古典和现代,追求的是传统与现代的合璧。他有机地运用传统墨分五色的变化渗入西方丰富的色彩,既是自然物象的概括,又是传达主观感情的符号,涵盖了写实和抽象两种样式,构建的是一个色彩空间,又不失原来固有的中国画传统和审美法则,因此更具有独立价值和创作意义。

也正因为他的这种多种元素糅合,多种艺术形式熏陶、探索彩墨交融、



◎ 国内外部分报刊的刊载和评论 International and domestic media coverage



◎ 空故纳万境Emptiness embraces everything

中西合璧的绘画创作理念,他的作品在欧洲美洲多个国家的画展上广受好评,国外媒体对翟宗祝教授的画也推崇备至。也正因为此,翟宗祝教授有许多非常优秀的作品都走出国门留在了海外收藏家的手里。

翟宗祝教授一生从事美术史和绘画艺术创作的教育、研究工作,无论是对艺术形式的兴衰起伏、发生发展,还是对艺术创作的技法技巧、风格流派都有相当深刻的认识。多年的国内外学术交流经验积累,也让翟宗祝教授的心底对美术教育有了一番自己的看法。

激昂的艺术嗅觉并没有掩盖翟宗祝平淡的生活情绪。年过古稀的翟宗祝现如今依然是吃饭、散步、作画。儿子在外地工作没有时间来照顾他,孙女小UU一直是翟老先生的掌上明珠,小孙女的生日翟宗祝总是亲自下厨为宝贝孙女做一桌可口的佳肴。

就是这样一位老者,就是这样一位艺术家,他的画作博然大气,他的为人低调内敛。似水的岁月没有磨平他的艺术锋芒,时光的刻刀把他的艺术风格隽永留存。他把毕生的精力奉献给了自己所钟爱的教育事业,他用坚定的毅力来克服所遇到的每一个困难,他用执着的心书写属于他的写意人生。



◎ 东方禅画 Oriental Zen Painting



◎ 禅是东方的哲学、智慧,但归根结底是宗教 Zen is oriental philosophy and wisdom, but religion in nature

Commentary of Life Art on CCTV

Life Art - Zhai Zongzhu



◎ 1991 年,德国策勒市克莱蒙斯·卡塞尔博物馆里的东方画展 Oriental Paintings Exhibition in Lemmons · Cassel Museum in Cele Germany, 1991



◎ 美国五人联展海报
Postal of exhibition five Chinese artists
in the US



◎ 德国报刊刊载翟宗祝画展盛况 News reoport on Zhai Zongzhu's painting exhibition

"The flower and bird paintings by him, implicit and mysterious; figure paintings, visionary and verisimilar; landscape paintings, unconstrained and majestic."

With various elements all in one, his painting forms a style of its own. He draws as freely as if God is helping him, and he thinks as vigorously as a heavenly steed soaring across the sky. What he uses is Xuan paper and color for traditional Chinese painting, yet what comes out is not completely Chinese. Nor is it quite like western oil and watercolor painting. But the nature of beauty in art is definitely deeply embedded.

His name is Zhai Zongzhu, a famous ink and color artist.

Zhai Zongzhu, with a pseudonym Tianzhu, was born in 1938 in Chaohu City, Anhui Province. In 1960, he graduated from the Department of Art of the former Wannan University, and was then assigned to be a teacher in the Department of Education in the former Hefei Normal College. From 1978, he becomes professor and dean of the Department of Fine Art in Anhui Normal University. He is also member of the Chinese Artists Association and council of Anhui Artists Association.

Zhai was very fond of paintings when he was still a kid. In 1958, he was admitted by the former Wannan University, which he had been longing for, to study in the education major of the Department of Art. It was from then that Zhai was tightly bound to fine art.

After graduating from Wannan University, Zhai started his career in art teaching. Due to certain historical reasons, he was unable to keep on art creation at his early age, but put more energy on imparting advanced theory and his own insight to his students. Even so, his paintings Mountains Coming out of the Vanishing Fog and Zhaojun Coming out the Frontier were displayed on the first and second National Watercolor and Gouache Paintings Exhibition separately, and were widely acclaimed.

With the great stride of reform and opening up across the country, the culture and art sector of new China eventually restored to vigor. Zhai, who was at the time dean of the Department of Art in Anhui Normal University and burdened with heavy teaching and administrative work, did manage to make some time for painting.