

CHINESE PAPER CUTTING

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CHINESE PAPER CUTTING



中的男子

中国剪纸

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几千年的中国丰富的传统文化,象乳汁一样养育着华夏儿女。在长期的生活实践中,也为这个民族凝结了一种特有的东方审美观念和意识。中国剪纸艺术就是在这种特有的审美观念和意识下产生的艺术,是一种观念艺术。

中国剪纸艺术来自于民间,是老百姓自己的艺术,是老百姓在劳动之余,为了满足自己的精神生活的需求而创造出来的一种艺术。老百姓用自己的双手描绘自己的生活,坦率而诚恳的传达着自己内心的信息。这种信息体现了一种完整的内在美和精神品质,所散发出的是一种纯朴美的光辉。长期的艺术实践与积累,使中国剪纸形成了鲜明的乡土气息和浓烈的生活情趣,是一种独具魅力的艺术。

中国剪纸艺术源远流长,从其它的姐妹艺术中可以寻觅到剪纸艺术祖先的身影。原始社会的彩陶

艺术、岩画艺术,奴隶社会的青铜器艺术,以至周、秦、汉、唐诸代中的瓦当艺术、画像石艺术等等,都是一种块面对比的黑白相间的艺术,其多变的结构和浑厚质朴的作风,为中国剪纸提供了极为丰富的艺术源泉,剪纸就是以这些艺术为依托产生出来的独具特色的艺术。

中国剪纸的内容极为丰富,神话传说、戏剧人物、飞禽走兽、 虫鱼花果,无所不有,都是以老百姓生活中见的,听到的事物,围绕着祈福求祥、花好月圆的美好愿望和理想展开创作,又常常巧妙地运用谐音手法, 如"鸡"谐音为"吉","鱼"谐音为"余","羊"谐音为"祥","鹿"谐音为"禄",莲花和鱼喻意为连年有余……等等,既有显明的形象图案,又有深刻的喻意和内涵。

在表现形式上,剪纸沿袭了古代的各种艺术特色,强调黑白块面对比下的虚实 安排,线条变化中的节奏与韵律感,形成了一种古朴简拙、奔放活泼的特色。由构 图的千变万化和表现形式上的多样,体现了既有浩然之气又有艳丽深秀的精神气质。

中国剪纸在表现手法上采取"随心走",往往腹稿胜于草稿,刀剪运用自如,一气呵成,给人们以天真和拙朴、憧憬和幻想、创造与追求的意境。剪纸因其工具(刀和剪)和材料(纸张)简单易有,所以在中国的民间艺术门类中,拥有最众多的作



中国剪纸

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者。从南到北,从农村到城市,男女老少,随处可见动剪刀之人,形成了多种风格和地区特色。更为可贵的是以它特有的传播方式,赢得了亿万的知音与追求者,所以说它又是一种大众化的群众艺术。

中国剪纸最主要的内容和最多的用途是祈福求祥,"吉祥"二字,自古以来就是我们是民族心理的反映,以求诸事顺利,福瑞喜庆。据《老子》成玄英《疏》说:"吉者,福善之事;祥者,嘉庆之征"。实质上是人们对生活中美的追求和向往,是情感上的需要。随着现代生活进入家庭,在生活上的丰足之后,对美的追求意识就更为强烈。剪纸这种普及性最强的艺术,也就很自然的被广大群众所喜闻乐见,每逢喜事庆典,贴上几张红色"吉祥剪纸"装点,顿时就显得气氛格外浓烈。每当人们看到这些红色装饰物时,兴奋和愉快就会油然而生,从而带

来心理上的满足。

今天的美好生活,使得人们需要更多的艺术形式来装点自己。愿中国剪纸这一 古老的民间艺术, 散发出更加绚丽的光辉, 更好地为今天的生活服务, 为大众服务。

林德

1999年7月

CHINESE PAPER CUTTING

Thousands of years of Chinese traditional culture has nurtured one Chinese generation after another. During the long practice, a special aesthetic concept and ideology was formed in the Orient. Paper cutting,a kind of conceptual art, was born in China.

The art of paper cutting is created by common laboring people, who want to entertain themselves in the spare time. With their delicate hands, these people depict their lives simply but vividly ,conveying their inward world frankly and sincerely. In the long process of artistic practice and accumulation, Chinese





paper cutting has featured a distinctive local flavor and a strong sense of life, which turns itself into a unique art form.

Chinese paper cutting finds its origin in many other art forms. The painted pottery and rock pictures in primitive society, the bronze vessels in the slave society and the eaves tile and stone carving pictures in the Zhou, Qin, Han and Tang dynasties all provide rich sources for the paper cutting. These kinds of art forms all have a contrast between black and white, variable structure and simple and vigorous style.

The subjects of Chinese paper cutting are very wide, including fairy tales and legends, opera figures, birds and beasts, insects ,fish ,flower and fruits. All of them are easily found in common life. Chinese paper cutting always reflects people's aspiration for happiness , auspiciousness and conjugal bliss. Homonym is often used in showing people's wills. For example, a cock (ji) means

a good fortune (jixiang in Chinese), a fish (yu) means richness (fuyu), a sheep (yang) for auspices (xianghe), a deer (lu) for revenue (fenglu) and lotus (lian) and fish (yu) together means sufficiency for years (liannianyouyu). Clear images show profound meanings.

Chinese paper cutting follows the way of many ancient artistic forms, emphasizing the arrangements against the contrast of black and white. Among the changeable lines, people find a rhythm. The overall characteristics are simple, awkward, unrestrained and lovely. Because of the diversity in composition, the paper cutting works always show a spirit of mightiness and delicacy.

In cutting papers, Chinese people are accustomed to following their senses. The design in their mind is much better than design on paper. The free use of knives and scissors create such a artistic conception that is blends naivete and simplicity, yearning and dream, creation and pursuit. Since the materials in paper cutting such as knives, scissors and papers are easily obtained, the paper cutting are done by male and female, the old and the young, from North to South and from countryside to cities in China. With a special way of communication, it has won hundreds of millions of followers.





Chinese people cut papers mainly to reflect their aspiration for auspices and fortune. When people have got enough in modern lives, their pursuit for beauty becomes stronger. The paper cutting, therefore, become more and more popular among the common people. In happy occasions or celebrations, several red paper cuttings representing auspiciousness will surely lighten up the atmosphere. People therefore are satisfied.

Today, Chinese is living a better life, which enhances their wish to enjoy finer arts. As an old folk art form, Chinese paper cutting will surely become more brilliant and better served the common people.

《吉祥剪纸》

《Auspicious Paper Cutting》





The first of the twelve Earthly Branches Zi (mouse)





十二生肖之二 丑 (牛)

The second of the twelve Earthly Branches \quad Chou (ox)



The third of the twelve Earthly Branches Yin (tiger)



十二生肖之四 卯 (兔)

The fourth of the twelve Earthly Branches Mao (hare)



The fifth of the twelve Earthly Branches Chen (dragon)



十二生肖之七 午 (马)

The seventh of the twelve Earthly Branches Wu (horse)