



THE ROAD TO FUTURE ART

Zhou Changxin's Zhong Cai Oil Painting

Author: Lu Guoying Translator: Li Guoqing



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Founder of Zhong Cai
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Plateau Autumn 150×260cm 2012

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Auspicious Snow Welcomes Spring
150×260cm 2013

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A Brief Introduction to Zhou Changxin's Art



Zhou Changxin

Zhou Changxin is the founder of China's *Zhong Cai* oil painting, a landmark figure who has combined Chinese and Western art. He is the Honorary Chairman of the Beijing Cultural Development Foundation & the Zhou Changxin Art Fund, Chief Editor of *Zhong Cai Oil Painting* magazine, and President of China's International Research Institute of *Zhong Cai* Oil Painting.

Zhou Changxin spent ten years studying traditional Chinese *Zhong Cai* and another ten years experiencing Western oil painting. He has devoted himself to the study of combining Chinese *Zhong Cai* with Western oil art. He has brought about the merging of lines (the essence of Chinese *Zhong Cai*) and color (the spirit of Western oil painting). He founded the *Zhong Cai* School. He initiated the Line-color Doctrine and established True Image art. People describe him as the founder of *Zhong Cai* oil painting and the founder of Line-color painting and True Image art.

The only element in Zhou Changxin's *Zhong Cai* oil paintings is "Line-color", the trinity of lines, colors, and shapes. His artistic theory is called the "Line-color Doctrine". According to this doctrine, Line-color is worshipped, even spiritualized. His expressive technique is called "Line-color Painting", painting guided by the Chinese spirit, but highly expressive with its Western application of color towards the revelation of universal beauty. His artistic language is "True Image Art", which refers to the trinity of concretization, abstraction, and image.

"Line-color" comes from the progress of lines, colors and shapes. It is a revolution, an innovation. Line-color painting has broken free from the bondage of dots, lines,



Sunrise in the East 197×291cm

and plane surfaces. It has broadened their horizons by breaking through the wall of shapes that has held painting within it, opened up new dimensions and brought new vitality. In Line-color Doctrine, Line-color is the innovation of both Chinese and Western art. It is the key to begin a new chapter in modern art history.

“True Image” has progressed from concretization, abstraction, and imagination. It is also a revolution and an innovation. True Image art holds within it the trinity of concretization, abstraction, and imagination; but it is a transcendence of them. True Image art is a perfect art form, a form of wisdom, thinking, and enlightenment.

Zhou Changxin’s *Zhong Cai* oil painting takes Line-color as its means, Line-color Doctrine as its guiding principle, and True Image art as its objective.

Zhou Changxin’s *Zhong Cai* oil painting is a hybrid form of Chinese and Western art. It has the heritage of Chinese art and the DNA of Western art. It is neither, however, Chinese *Zhong Cai* nor Western oil art in traditional sense.

Zhou Changxin’s *Zhong Cai* oil painting is a carry-on, a revolution, and an innovation on both. It is a brand-new oil form. It is a thoroughfare for Chinese art to go out to the world. It is also an approach for the rest of the world to take to understand Chinese art, a textbook for their study.

Zhou Changxin’s representative works include “The Soul of China”, “Romance on the Grasslands”, “Fate”, “Source”, “Legend”, “Mythology”, “The Origin of Life”, and “Driving Force”. All of these are powerful works with a strong visual impact, painted in a simple and elegant style with diversified subjects treated in different ways. Their themes are profound; their ideas truly unique, and their expression is bold. Many are prizewinners in China and in other countries. His “The Soul of China” was auctioned out in 2006 for 11.66 million RMB, one of the top ten most highly-priced oil paintings ever auctioned out in China.

The Chinese and Foreign Cultural Exchanges Center under the Ministry of Culture of the PRC held an exhibition entitled “The Soul of China—the Charm of Hong Kong –