

THE FOLK FINE ARTS OF LUOCHUAN

Photographers:

Hao Changhe, Wei Zhishan

Shaanxi People's Fine Arts Publishing House



洛川民间美术





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洛川县文化馆 延安地区群众艺术馆 编

郝长河 魏至善 摄影

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洛川民间美术小引

在中国民间美术宽广繁盛的苑囿里，陕西是特别惹人流连响往的一畦，在万紫千红、竞奇争妍的花丛中，她们显得格外雅灿缤纷。

近年来，陕西省洛川县文化馆的同志们，在领导和有关方面的关心支持下，几乎跑遍了全县每一个村庄院落，采访了成千上万各类民间美术品的作者，搜集了大量的民间美术佳作，其中有些是年代久远、甚或行将绝迹的珍品。这些令人目不暇接的出自农夫村姑之手的绝妙创造，袒露出北方勤劳人民的淳朴情怀，倾泄着他们对生活的热爱和对美的执着追求，呈现着他们艺术创造的卓越才能。

北京中国美术馆展出了洛川的民间美术作品，受到了广大观众的激赏，赢得了中外学者的青睐。洛川，从此得到了“民间美术之乡”美誉的殊荣。

洛川位于延安地区南部，是由关中向陕北的过渡地带，塬面广阔，沟壑纵横。由于其在地理上所处的位置，秦汉时已成为西北边陲的名邑，留下了不少文人墨客题咏的诗章，有着悠久的历史根基。洛川民间美术之所以能够呈现如此博大精深的面目，绝非偶然，从质朴典雅的气度风格里，可以看到悠久文明传统的渊源。

这本《洛川民间美术》小画册，像浓缩罐头似的，包容了从数万件作品筛选出来的各个种类最具代表性的精品，画册为您勾画出洛川民间美术面貌的轮廓。请您荡起这叶小舟，且来玩味在民间美术之乡遨游之乐吧！

您将会很有兴味地依次看到：

剪纸窗花

这里农家每眼窑洞或每间房屋的窗子上，都贴满窗花，真是花团锦簇，色彩斑斓！这种用色纸剪成的单纯精练的装饰艺术品，也用来美化顶棚、炕围、置放器物的“板架”等。

洛川窗花的题材内容极为广泛。在表现手法上，则兼具绥德、米脂一带窗花的粗犷厚重之美，三边窗花精细秀劲之美，关中地区窗花的装饰美。

绣花枕顶

这是过去长期普遍使用的一种近似方柱体枕头左右两端的绣片。旧时婚丧嫁娶往往用来作馈赠的礼物或纪念品。这种绣花枕顶，大体上呈园角正方形，构图完整，适用范围宽广，我看不难在现代沙发靠垫、提袋、装饰壁挂等方面，派上新用场。

布什物

多种多样的兽头鞋帽，不仅只为了穿着实用，且具有审美价值。再如小巧的针扎，精致的钱包，新奇的香包……样样令人惊叹！慧心巧手的村姑农妇们，像是要把整个世界都变成艺术品！

绣花裹兜

裹兜是贴身穿着用来防止肚子着凉的物品，过去男女老幼都普遍

使用它，人们常把它作为表示情意的礼品，因之也是最适宜于驰骋刺绣技艺的天地。今天在舞台上亮相的传统民族服装，壮美的汉子往往袒开上装，显露出鲜红的裹肚——这个很出效果的重要组成部分。

布玩具

这些憨厚诙谐、逗人喜爱的布老虎、布娃娃、布猪、布狗……，洋溢着浓郁温馨的生活情趣，这是架设在长辈与儿孙之间传递爱的暖流的最初的桥。

遮裙带儿

它是农妇们所用的围裙后背的扣袂，洛川一带的这种遮裙带儿，在丝毫不影响遮裙实用的前提下，使其具有了充分的审美功能，确是绝妙的艺术创造。试想，初入厨下的羞怯的新嫁娘，凭着这一种遮裙带儿，不须回眸应酬，就足以显示聪慧灵巧而赢得身后评头品足的人们的赞叹了。

面花

洛川一带逢年过节时，有制作种种面塑的风习，清明节时制作鸟蛇形的祭祀供品，端午节时制作面虎、面鸡，小孩生日时制作面动物花馍，给新婚夫妇赠送浑圆形或龙凤形花馍，作为寓意圆满吉祥的祝福。

农民画

这是一个新兴起的民间美术品种，近年来涌现出一些崭露绘画才能的作者。他们的作品别开生面，独树一帜，散播着泥土的芳香。不少优秀之作作为中国美术馆所收藏，在全国农民画展评奖获奖，受到广大观众的好评。这为民间美术之乡增添了新的光彩。

炕头石雕

这些出自民间石雕艺人的“小不点儿”，虽没有帝王陵前石刻的威严堂皇，但却发乎性情，朴实憨直，另具一种别样的美。一点也不比有些“庞然大物”逊色。

这有的是用来拴娃娃的，既可哄娃玩耍，又有防止娃娃滚下炕去的实用价值。自然也同时是农家居室中的装饰艺术品。

由于历史的局限，不可避免地其中也夹杂着糟粕泥沙，但瑕不掩玉。这些劳动人民的艺术创造亟待整理研究。极为遗憾的是这些历来被贬抑为“难登大雅之堂”的乡野美术，往往随着岁月的流逝而自生自灭，因而形成美术史料上的大块空白，这是无法弥补的缺欠！感谢洛川县文化馆同志们为挖掘、搜集民间美术创作所付出的巨大劳动，一批行将绝迹的民间美术精品，从此得到妥善的保护。其中不少精品已为国家所收藏，成为民族艺术宝库中的珍贵财富。

生活永远在不停地向前发展，任何历史上优异的艺术样式，也不可能永远满足人们不断地发展变化着的审美需要而照旧流行下去。但，它们不仅将作为令人引为自豪的民族文化遗产得到珍重，而且，它无疑地将成为建设新的时代文化的住壤沃土。

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BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE FOLK FINE ARTS OF LUOCHUAN

In the vast and luxuriant garden of China's folk fine arts, people especially enjoy and linger on those of Shaanxi province. In the flowering shrubs of gayest colours, they appear extremely resplendent.

In recent years, the members of the Cultural Centre of Luochuan county, Shaanxi province, under the care and support of their leaders and departments concerned, interviewed hundreds of various kinds of authors and gathered great deal of excellent works of folk fine arts after they had almost run to every village and courtyard of the county. Some of the works they found, for instance age-old, even vanishing ones, are treasured wares. These ingenious creations, a real feast for the eyes, are from the hands of countrymen who cherish the love of life and perseveringly seek the beautiful. Their works expose the unsophisticated feelings of the northern industrious people, and show their outstanding talents in making artistic creations.

The China Art Gallery in Beijing exhibited works of the folk fine arts of Luochuan county which were dearly enjoyed by the broad masses as well as both Chinese and foreign scholars. Luochuan, therefore, is specially honoured to be called "The Home of Folk Fine Arts".

Located in the south of Yanan area, Luochuan is the intermediate zone on plateau between Guanzhong plain and Northern Shaanxi. With ravines in length and breadth, it covers a vast area. Due to this geographical reason, it became a famous place in the northwest boundary during the Qin and Han dynasties. It has a long cultural foundation, and many scholars inscribed their poems and articles about it. The reason that the Luochuan folk fine arts present such grand appearance is not absolutely accidental. From the simple but elegant style of the arts, one can see some traces of the historical origins of the civilized tradition.

This picture album of "The Folk Fine Arts of Luochuan", as a rich treasure-chest, contains most representative works of various kinds carefully chosen from hundreds and thousands. The album brings you the general picture of the folk fine arts of Luochuan.

You will see and ruminate over these works of the Home of the Folk Fine Arts with keen interest in the following order,

Paper cuts for window decoration

Here, paper cuts are pasted on windows of every cavehouse and every house of the peasants. It is a wildy colourful scene. Such artistic decoration of coloured paper cuts which are simple and succine, are also to beau-

tify ceilings, facades of *Kangs* (heatable brick beds), racks etc. Luochuan paper cuts for window decorations cover a wide range of subjects. On the technique of expression, they have three kinds of beauties, the beauty of being bold and rough as the ones in the parts of Suide and Mizhi counties, the beauty of being fine and vigorous as the ones of Jingbian, Dinbian and Anbian counties, and the decorative beauty of Guangzhong plain.

Embroidered pillow sides

These are embroidered pieces on the two sides of square-shaped pillows which were used long ago. They were taken as gifts or souvenirs when people died or married. With complete compositions, this embroidery is generally square shaped but with four rounded edges. They are suitable for many purposes, and I think they can also be used on back cushions of sofas, handbags and wall decorations.

Cloth articles for daily use

Various kinds of animal-head shoes and hats are not only practical, but also have aesthetic value. For other examples, these small and fine sewing kits, exquisite wallets, and novel scented purses win everybody's admiration. Clever in mind and quick in action, the countrywomen seem to make the whole world into artistic wares.

Embroidered guodou

Embroidered *Guodou*, an apron-like garment worn next to skin to keep the stomach warm, was popularly used by local people, men and women, old and young. It was also used as gift to express people's affection. So *Guodou*-makers display their talents as much as they can. *Guodou* is also an important traditional nationality costume used for striking a pose on the contemporary stage for an excellent effect.

Cloth toys

These straightforward and humorous cloth tigers, babies, pigs and dogs are full of a strong and pleasant appeal of life. This is the first bridge to convey affectionate feelings from grandparents to their grandchildren.

Apron buckles

Such buckles are used at the back of countrywomen's aprons. In Luochuan, these buckles do not affect the practicality of the apron, but have aesthetic functions. They are really excellent artistic creations. One look at a bride's buckle which was made by herself can tell you how intelligent and ingenious she was.

Flowery wheaten food

It is a custom to make wheaten sculptures in Luochuan and other neighbouring counties at festivals. On Pure Brightness (Qingming) Day, bird-and-

snake shaped wheaten sacrificial offerings are made. Wheaten tigers and chickens are made at Dragon Boat Festivals. Flowery wheaten steamed bread in shapes of various animals is made to celebrate children's birthdays. Round flowery steamed bread in shapes of dragon and phoenix are presented to bridegrooms and brides to symbolize satisfaction and luck.

Peasant paintings

This is a newly-appeared variety of folk fine arts. Talented artists have created a new sort of product, which exudes the fragrance of soil. Many of their products of excellence are collected in the China Art Gallery, and win prizes in the China National Peasant Painting Exhibition and Competition. They are favourably commented on and add radiance to the Home of Folk Fine Arts.

Stone sculpture on edges of kang

These tiny things from the hands of common stone-sculpture artists are simple and unadorned, have a kind of beauty different from majesty and grandness of the stone sculptures in front of emperors' mausoleums. But they are by no means inferior.

Some of the stone sculptures are used to tether babies, so they would not fall off the Kangs. They also could be played with by babies. Of course, they are artistic decorations at peasants' homes as well.

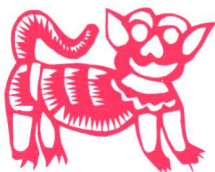
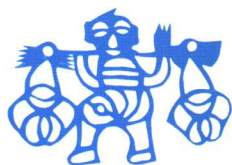
Owing to some limitation of history the Folk Fine Arts are inevitably mingled with dross. But one flaw cannot obscure the splendour of the jade. These labouring people's artistic creations demand prompt categorization and study. But it is a great pity that these country arts have always been depreciated as not appealing to refined taste. They often emerge and perish with the passage of time. So a big gap has remained in the historical materials of the fine arts. This is an omission which could never be made up. Thank the members of the Cultural Centre of Luochuan County who put in a lot of hard work to dig and collect works of folk fine arts. So a batch of vanishing excellent works of folk fine arts can be well protected. Many of them are stored by the state and become rare wealth in the art treasure house of our nation.

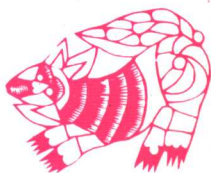
Life develops without slackening. Any kind of fine artistic forms in history cannot always satisfy each generation, nor hand down for ever aesthetic needs which are always changing. However, they will be paid attention to as a cultural heritage of our nation, of which we are proud. And they will, undoubtedly, become a good cradle to construct the culture of new times.

A Gong



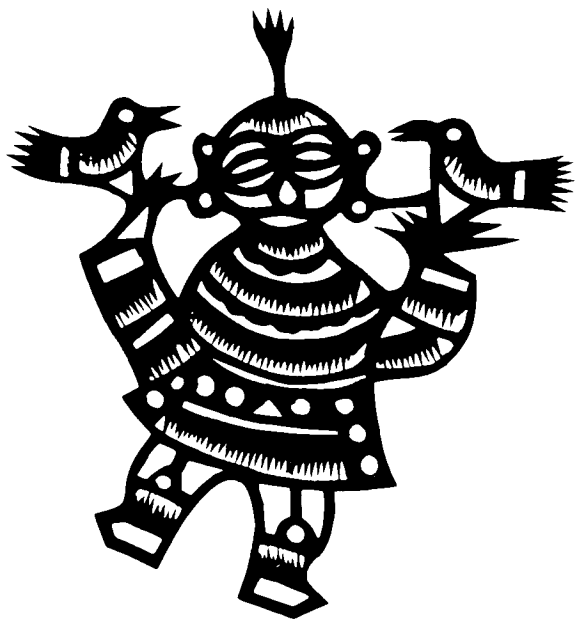






Paper cuts for window decoration





Paper cuts for window decoration

