

# The expression of lines in mural painting in Chinese meticulous figure painting

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**Abstract:** Line is a very important element in stroke painting and Chinese meticulous figure painting. The line not only integrates the creator's emotion and creative consciousness, but also reflects the creator's technology. Mural painting is the artistic heritage of traditional national culture, originated earlier, as a strong art form, has different characteristics and values. Therefore, in order to better promote the development of Chinese meticulous figure painting, it is necessary to further analyze the characteristics of lines in mural paintings, as well as their integration and specific performance in Chinese meticulous figure painting. In order to continuously improve the creative ideas of Chinese meticulous figure painting, create better works, and promote the positive development of Chinese meticulous figure painting.

**Keywords:** mural; Lines; Chinese meticulous figure painting; expression

## 1. Introduction

As one of the important contents of painting creation, line is one of the main artistic elements in Chinese meticulous figure painting, and it is also the creation method that Chinese meticulous figure painting can rely on. Through the comprehensive analysis and research of the lines in the fresco, we can find that the lines have been the main way of painting creation since ancient times, and are the etymology of expressing the connotation and emotion of the works. Therefore, in order to better use the language of line to express the inner spirit of Chinese meticulous figure painting, it is necessary to explore how to express the line in the mural in Chinese meticulous figure painting works. It is necessary not only to express the excellent traditional culture and the inner spirit of the work, but also to pay attention to integrating some new elements into Chinese meticulous figure painting, so that the creation of Chinese meticulous figure painting can achieve innovative development.

## 2. The line expression form in mural painting and Chinese meticulous figure painting

### 2.1 Lines in mural paintings

In murals, line is an important form of expression that helps the artist convey emotion, composition and subject matter. Lines are a model of the development of ancient fresco to the peak. Lines are used at different levels, continuous, and have a very strong sense of rhythm, which can show the image of different textures in nature <sup>[1]</sup>. The lines in the mural mainly include iron line drawing and willow leaf painting, the former mainly refers to the lines as strong as iron wire lines, using this method to describe the clothing pattern is generally a feeling of falling, like clothes just out of the water; The latter is like a willow leaf gently floating line, line from light to heavy, and then from heavy to light, slowly close the pen out of the point, virtual virtual close. Here are some common ways that lines are represented in murals:

#### 2.1.1 Outline

Outlines are the most basic form of line representation, used to define shapes and boundaries. In murals, contours can be detailed to depict the external outline of an object, making it more three-dimensional and realistic.

#### 2.1.2 Gradient line

A gradient line is a line that gradually changes in width or grayscale. This line can show a soft transition effect, making the object or landscape in the mural appear more layered and soft.

### **2.1.3 Parallel lines**

Parallel lines are lines that are placed parallel in the same direction. By drawing parallel lines, artists can show the texture, light and shadow effects, and sense of movement of objects<sup>[2]</sup>. The length, spacing and direction of parallel lines can be adjusted as needed to achieve different visual effects.

### **2.1.4 Diagonal lines**

A slash is a line that is not parallel to a horizontal or vertical line. In the mural, the use of oblique lines can create a sense of dynamic and changing rhythm, making the picture more vivid and dynamic.

### **2.1.5 Curves**

A curve is a curved, curved or wavy line. By using curves, artists can express fluidity, softness and elegance. The change of curves can create a certain mood or feeling in a mural, such as a flowing river or a beautiful figure.

In addition to the several common line expressions mentioned above, different line forms such as cross lines, dotted lines and dotted lines can also be used in mural paintings to achieve a richer and more diverse visual effect. Lines play an important role in murals, and by using various forms of line expression, artists can create a unique and vivid visual presentation that enriches people's artistic experience.

## **2.2 Lines in Chinese meticulous figure painting**

There are various forms of line expression in Chinese meticulous figure painting, both the traditional delicate and soft line and the bold and free brush. Here are some common lines:

### **2.2.1 Soft, smooth contours**

Chinese meticulous figure painting pays attention to the beauty and temperament of the characters, and the use of contours is very important. These lines are usually delicate, fluid, and continuous to outline the overall outline and curves of the character.

### **2.2.2 Line draft with a fine line with a plump pen**

When painting the details of the figure, the artist usually uses finer lines to express the facial features, hair strands, clothing lines and other details of the figure in a delicate and fine way. These lines need to have the appropriate thickness and texture to increase the sense of layer and dimension of the picture<sup>[3]</sup>.

### **2.2.3 Dynamic rich lines**

In order to express the dynamic and vitality of the characters, Chinese meticulous figure painting often uses rich and changeable lines. These lines can be thick and thin curves, crisscrossing virtual and solid lines, to express the character's posture, movement and the floating movement of clothes.

### **2.2.4 Alternating warm and cold ink lines**

In order to increase the sense of layer and artistic effect of the picture, when drawing the figure painting, the artist often uses alternating ink lines to express the light and shadow effect. The alternate use of cool and warm ink lines can better express the texture of the skin and the three-dimensional sense of the body of the character.

### **2.2.5 The use of non-physical lines**

In Chinese meticulous figure painting, the artist sometimes uses invisible lines to show small details. For example, through the depiction of clothing lines to express the texture of clothing or the dynamic posture of the figure.

## **3. The specific use of lines in Chinese meticulous figure painting**

Mural painting is an important form of expression in Chinese art, and line has an important use in Chinese meticulous figure painting. Line is one of the basic elements of the picture, which can convey the outline, rhythm and movement of the figure. In Chinese meticulous figure painting, the use of lines should be considered in combination with the characteristics and styles of the figures. First, the thickness and curvature of the lines can be used to represent different characters. For example, the lines of young people are generally more delicate and show smooth curves to show their softness and vitality; Older

people's lines may be rough and vibrating to highlight their strength and vicissitudes. Secondly, the change of lines can be used to express the figure, clothing and movement. In figure painting, the thickness of the lines can be increased or decreased to show the three-dimensional sense of the figure, for example, outline the bones and muscles of the figure with broad lines; The change and curvature of the line can express the dynamic sense of the character through the direction and arc of the line, for example, the smooth arc is used to outline the dancing posture of the character <sup>[4]</sup>. In addition, lines are often used to express clothing and texture in Chinese meticulous figure painting. For example, thin lines outline the folds and textures of clothing to make the picture more delicate and vivid. The use of lines can also create atmosphere by outlining the background and environment of the characters, such as outlining the lines of trees, buildings or landscapes, so that the whole picture is more rich and has a sense of space. In short, line has an important use in Chinese meticulous figure painting, which can convey the outline, rhythm and movement of the figure, and also show the characteristics, movements and environment of the figure. Through the clever use of lines, artists can create vivid and delicate figures that make the viewer feel a deep artistic charm.

#### **4. The significance of the use of lines in mural paintings in Chinese meticulous figure painting**

Mural painting is the treasure of Chinese traditional painting art, and the use of lines in Chinese meticulous figure painting is of great significance. Line is one of the basic elements of the picture, which can convey the figure form, action and emotion, and the use of line in Chinese meticulous figure painting can express the following aspects of significance: First, depict the figure form: line can help the painter accurately express the shape and characteristics of the figure <sup>[5]</sup>. Through fine and precise line depiction, the artist can show the character's features, body proportions, clothing and other details. The second is to show the dynamics of the characters: the different forms of the lines can express the posture and action of the characters. Through the use of smooth and rhythmic lines, the artist can express the natural dynamics of the figure, such as the graceful curve of the dance posture or the body posture curve of the static figure, and enhance the artistic appeal and vividness of the picture. The third is to express emotion and atmosphere: lines in Chinese meticulous figure painting can also convey the emotion and atmosphere of characters through thickness, shade and other characteristics. The artist can use thick lines to emphasize the strength and vitality of the figure, use thin lines to express the tenderness and delicacy of the figure, and show the light and shadow effect and atmosphere of the picture through the change of the shade of the line. The fourth is to arrange the picture structure: lines play a role in composition and organization in Chinese meticulous figure painting <sup>[6]</sup>. Through the layout and use of lines, the artist can guide the audience's line of sight, shape the spatial structure of the picture, and create a balance and harmony of the picture. As one of the important elements in Chinese meticulous figure painting, line is not only a means to depict the figure image, but also through the clever use of line, so that the picture to achieve a high degree of unity of expression and emotion. Whether describing the shape and dynamics of the characters, or expressing the emotions and atmosphere of the characters, lines play an indispensable role.

#### **5. The effective use of lines in mural paintings in Chinese meticulous figure painting measures**

##### ***5.1 Reasonable arrangements***

The lines in the mural play a role in the composition of Chinese meticulous figure painting. Therefore, through the use of mural lines, the picture can be divided into different areas, making the structure of the picture more clear. And through the layout and arrangement of lines, the characters and background in the picture can be organically integrated to form a unified and harmonious whole. Taking "Eighteen Strokes" as an example, it is a different technique created by ancient painters specifically to depict the clothing patterns of characters, including ancient hairspring strokes, violin string strokes, moving clouds and running water strokes. Although these techniques are generally used for clothing line drawing techniques, in the specific creation of Chinese meticulous figure painting, different tracing methods can be organically combined and applied according to different characters and objective backgrounds <sup>[7]</sup>. On this basis, the main forms of expression of the lines in the mural are considered, including different tracing methods such as iron line painting and willow leaf painting, so that it can be organically integrated with the tracing methods in traditional Gongbi painting creation to complete the work. In this way, it can not only perfectly integrate the line description skills of ancient mural paintings, realize the application and inheritance of traditional techniques, but also show the overall effect of the works, and then constantly improve the works and express emotions.

### **5.2 Emphasize emotional expression**

The lines in the mural can accurately outline the outline and details of the figures. Chinese meticulous figure painting pays attention to the meticulous depiction of figures, and the use of lines can accurately outline the appearance characteristics and clothing textures of figures<sup>[8]</sup>. Therefore, through the delicate and powerful lines in the murals, such as in the "Chaoyuan Fairy War", the expression of images and objects is very wonderful, and it is an artistic expression from nature and higher than nature. Especially in the performance of the character image, comparing the real characters with the fresco figures, it will be found that the gender and age of the characters can be expressed, such as the performance of the elderly is mainly wrinkles, skinny, etc., and the hair, beard, etc., also reflects the texture of the portrayal. All these can be used for reference in the creation of Chinese meticulous figure painting, so that the artist can better show the expression, movement and emotion of the figure, so that the viewer can more truly feel the existence and vitality of the figure in the painting.

### **5.3 Pay attention to details**

The lines in the mural can be used to portray light and texture. In Chinese meticulous figure painting, artists often show the smooth and delicate skin of figures, folds and twists of clothing, and the shape and texture of objects through the change and use of lines. Therefore, the lines in the mural can be integrated into the detailed lines to make the light and shadow effect in the picture more vivid and realistic, so that the viewers can have the feeling of being in the scene. For example, as can be seen from the fresco of "Chaoyuan Fairy War", the ancient painter's treatment of clothing lines is very vivid, in order to fully reflect the atmosphere of the gods in the picture, they will deliberately draw the figure clothes streamers more elegant, and show the graceful figure of the figure, which requires full treatment of line details. At the same time, for people with different identities, the lines and textures of clothes also use different lines. Such as Vajra will use the "helmet armor" dignified performance, the pattern of clothing is also extremely luxurious, these are a performance of the characteristics of different characters with lines.

### **5.4 To enhance the aesthetics of works**

The lines in the murals can also be used to create rhythm and movement. In the creation, the lines in the mural can be combined, and the thickness, curvature and direction of the lines can be changed to enable the artist to create different rhythm and dynamic effects. The fluency and emphasis of the lines can make the actions of the characters more vivid and powerful, so that the whole picture presents a sense of rhythm and dynamics, and increase the visual impact of viewing. Similar to mural painting, meticulous figure painting is also based on line modeling, through ink line outline, color rendering, complete painting creation. For the painter, the line is a very important "weapon", the process of outlining the line must pay attention to the combination of virtual and real, and consider the overall picture, as well as the relationship between before and after. If the use of ordinary familiar xuan painting, the drawing method is the traditional method, and the processing of the details of the characters uses the mural line tracing, such as the use of willow leaves to depict the clothes of the characters. Using the flowing clothing pattern, there is a virtual and real representation of the figure. In this way, it can not only realize the inheritance of traditional excellent culture and inner spirit, but also integrate the mural line tracing to make the work reflect a more advanced aesthetic feeling, and then improve the overall aesthetic of the work.

## **6. Conclusion**

The lines in Chinese meticulous figure painting are rich and diverse, with unique charm, which brings endless imagination space to the viewer. Different painters use lines flexibly to express characters and emotions according to their own creative styles and expressive intentions. Therefore, on the basis of clarifying the expression form and specific application of the lines in the mural, based on the application significance, it considers how to effectively use the lines in the mural to create Chinese meticulous figure painting from the aspects of reasonable arrangement, emphasizing the expression of emotions, paying attention to the detail effect, and improving the aesthetics of the work. By further improving the form of creation and optimizing the content of creation, we can promote the further development of Chinese meticulous figure painting.

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