

# The Expression of the Concept of "Constant Joy & Self Purity" in Contemporary Art

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**Abstract:** *In the 21st century today, the development of science and technology is changing people's material life, economic and cultural exchange permeates people's spiritual world, new technology brings a lot of convenience at the same time, but also impact thousands of years of manual tradition, impact on people's spiritual world. In such a changing era, I will retrace the Zen philosophy of "constant joy and self purity" concept, and try to analyze the embodiment of this concept in contemporary art, to explore how to focus on the process of life experience in such an era of uncertainty and change, to seek a kind of truth and freedom beyond the secular and desires.*

**Keywords:** *Constant joy and self purity, Aesthetic implication, Contemporary art*

## 1. Introduction

In today's era of information and digitalization, how should art participate in our spiritual life? Traditional art often exists in the state of indoor production, shelf presentation and functional purpose. Now, the art form is increasingly diverse, the pursuit of art is increasingly innovative, the respect for the natural properties of materials, the pursuit of the sense of process in creation and the exploration of life experience are becoming more and more important topics in the development of contemporary art [1]. Our spiritual needs for art should also be suitable for the characteristics of The Times of expression and creative means. To this end, I will focus on the important Buddhist concept of "constant joy and self purity", and discuss its impact on the development of contemporary art [2].

## 2. The Concept and Aesthetic Implication of "Constant Joy and Self Purity"

### 2.1. The concept of "constant joy and self purity"

In the Southern and Northern Dynasties, the Great Nirvana Sutra (North version), translated by the Northern Liang Tianzhu, Tanzang, had an important impact on the development of Buddhism in China at that time.

In the Great Nirvana Sutra, "constant joy and self purity" is a Buddhist proposition stated in the sense of "Buddha nature" and "Middle Way". In "constant joy and self purity", the so-called "often", that is, constant constant consciousness, permanent unbeaten Buddha [3]. The so-called "happy", suitable for the body and mind is called music, that is, the realm of freedom and happiness. The so-called "I" refers to the subject of samsara and the "true self" of nirvana. By "clean", we mean to get rid of the troubles and the mistakes of evil deeds [4].

### 2.2. The aesthetic implication of "constant joy and self purity"

In the Great Nirvana Sutra, the proposition "constant joy and self purity" is more intrinsically related to Zen aesthetics. This connection is not simply Buddhist belief or worship, but has certain epistemology and cosmology.

As early as in the Buddha Said Infinite Life Sutra translated in The Three Kingdoms and the period of Cao Wei, the "truth, goodness and beauty" of the pure land of bliss in the West stated: "The water of eight merits and virtues is full of beauty, pure and fragrant, and tastes like nectar. Golden pool, bottom white silver sand; White silver sand, the bottom of the gold sand. Water fine pool, bottom glass sand; Coloured glaze pool, bottom water sand. Agate pool, bottom amber sand; Amber pool, bottom coral sand.

Tridacna pool, bottom agate sand; Agate sand is a Tridacna sand. White jade pool, bottom purple jinsha; Zijin pool, the bottom of the white jade sand. Or there are two treasures, three treasures and even seven treasures into a total synthesis. Kitkat's description is both stunning and beautiful. His ideal blueprint for the Buddhist country is to gather the treasures of the world and experience the "beauty" of the Buddhist country through perceptual imagination and fiction.

As a non-native religious culture, in order to "constant joy and self purity" as the important proposition of Buddhism since introduced to our country, has been with the native of Confucianism culture conflict, fusion and eventually brought into an important part of Chinese civilization, on the aesthetic, as the ultimate pursuit of Buddhism, nirvana Buddha this subtle ideal, is for "good", It is more in line with the aesthetic cognition habit of Chinese culture. The reality and reality of the Zen philosophy are rich in the form of Buddhist aesthetics, and the Mahayana Prajna's mesocosms are rich in the ideal of Buddhist aesthetics. In Buddhism, the spiritual state of "nothing" is "something", and "nothing" is "great self". It also has an important influence on the artistic creation at all times and in all countries.

As an important concept of Buddhism, "constant joy and self purity" has been colliding, communicating, permeating and influencing other civilizations in the world for thousands of years in the process of historical development, and has an important impact on the civilizations of many countries. In the territorial sea of Japan with China, the introduction of the concept of "constant joy and self purity", greatly promoted the development of its sculpture, architecture, music and literature, and in the blend of local culture, the formation of the influence of the "thing sorrow" thought and "wabi sabi" aesthetics. In the development of contemporary art, the trend of American art is also deeply influenced by it. Contemporary art also from the past simple attention to the appearance of formal beauty more deeply into the way of thinking and aesthetic stance of art. Thus, Pop art opened the curtain, and "conceptual" art has become the mainstream of Western art and even world art in today's society.

### **3. The Expression of "Constant Joy and Self Purity" in Contemporary Art**

#### ***3.1. External factors to explore the expression of "constant joy and self purity" in contemporary art***

##### ***3.1.1. The Diversity of Forms***

The concept of "constant joy and self purity", which accepts impermanent changes, respects natural attributes and pursues spiritual liberation, is expressed in the external form of the work, showing the diversity of forms. Form different from traditional art, to a large extent by the limits of the utility function, or presents to the rack, contemporary art, often out of the limitations of practical function, more to show their unique aesthetic and conceptual meaning, for the purpose of the breakthrough, on the basis of the previous technical limitations, recycling a variety of materials, the combination of present forms of diversity.

##### ***3.1.2. The Freedom of Color***

The concept of "constant joy and purity", which respects the properties of materials and pursues "no self", is reflected in the color changes of the works, showing that colors can change freely with the help of any material, any texture, any physical and chemical reaction. Different from the traditional art works, which mainly rely on color painting and spraying, the color presentation of contemporary art works is more free. Many works also present a state of antiquity and simplicity. They are created by free adhesion of materials or arbitrary sprinkling of different pigments.

#### ***3.2. Internal Factors to Explore the Expression of "Constant Joy and Self Purity" in Contemporary Art***

##### ***3.2.1. To Focus on Process***

The concept of "constant joy and self purity" is based on accepting the changes of impermanence with a normal mind and paying attention to the life experience in the process. In contemporary art creation, more and more artists begin to emphasize the life experience in the process, rather than just the pursuit of the final outcome of the work.

For example, Vietnamese artist UuDam Tran Nguyen, who was born in Japan in 1971, created a comprehensive installation called Boomerang Time: From Ocean Atolls to the Future Death Star (Figure 1), the South China Sea incident, which originated from China's boundary issue, measured the primitive human behavior of the world with the palm of the hand, circled the five continents, and visited the

important historical events back to discuss the issues involving cultural identity, territorial politics and other aspects. In this large-scale installation, Will measure the world's media - palm to reinterpret and other related elements, and produced a series of gypsum material for the center with Asia world map, the map, the artist circular tracks, which is also the location of his social issues of concern, elegantly map, is one thousand years of human civilization, also is full of change change, dye is full of pain and scars.



Figure 1: "Boomerang Time: From Ocean Atolls to the Future Death Star" by UuDam Tran Nguyen, 2013.

### 3.2.2. To Respect Materials

The concept of "constant joy and self purity" suggests that we should accept the impermanent changes in the world and the natural attributes of all things with a normal mind, which is reflected in artistic creation, that is, appreciation and respect for the natural attributes of creation materials.

For example, Japanese artist Kazuo Shiraga created "Challenging the Dirt" (Figure 2), which fully shows how much he has contributed to the development of the performance nature of art. Creative process, he almost naked, in the thick mud, in the mud, he rolls, wrestling, a series of very expressive body language, and mud contradictory, then tried to present this is hard to control the soil of kneading, his movement behavior clearly appear on the mud, and full of ritual in the process of feeling is not just a means to an end rendering, It's part of the artistic creation itself.

On the creation method, Kazuo Shiraga in this series of works, which fully reflects the "constant joy and self purity" idea respect the inner spirit of materials, application of body language combined with the original soil material, this will be the spirit of the invisible behavior performance out of the way through the body, also make the soil plasticity and degrees of freedom is here to the limit.



Figure 2: "Challenge to The Mud" by Kazuo Shiraga, 1955.

### 3.2.3. To Pursue Direct Sensory Experience

The concept of "constant joy and self purity" is proposed to accept the impermanence of the world with an ordinary mind, remove subjective desires and prejudices, and obtain the spiritual state of "no self", which is reflected in artistic creation, that is, the direct sensory experience immersed in the creation process.

For example, Chinese artist Qiu Qijing, who was born in Fujian Province in 1979, liberated Shoushan stone from the playing state of literati in his large-scale landscape installation work "The Great Migration" (Figure 3) created from 2006 to 2008. He carved nearly 50 tons of Shoushan stone, and the images are seemingly simple and rough. But each stone has a rich character and vivid image. The creation took a whole year, in the process of the pursuit of intuitive life experience almost reached the extreme, and after the completion of the sculpture, Qiu Qijing not only put them on the Shoushan Mountain, but also continued to extend, with the more than two thousand stones exhibited nationwide, in the process, they were lost, damaged, or collected. These interactions with the society also form part of the work. More than 2,000 stones are moved around with the artist's exhibition tour, which also reflects the flow of large numbers of rural people during the urbanization of rural China.



Figure 3: "The Great Migration" by Qiu Qijing, 2008.

## 4. The Advantages of "Constant Joy and Self Purity" in Contemporary Art Creation

In terms of form of expression, the concept of "constant joy and self purity" advocates freedom and liberation, which inspires contemporary artists to create freedom and reflect the freedom and diversification of form of expression. In terms of color expression, the concept of "constant joy and self purity" advocates accepting the natural properties of materials, which on the one hand inspires the aesthetic tendency of the ancient and poor, and on the other hand liberates the understanding of the creation subject for color generation. In terms of creative ideas, the concept of "constant joy and self purity" advocates the liberation and freedom of people's minds. On the one hand, it inspires artists to think freely about the current problems, and on the other hand, it also inspires artists to attach importance to the creative process and intuitive life experience.

## 5. Conclusions

This article starts from the important Buddhist concept of "constant joy and self purity", explores the spiritual significance of Buddhism's special philosophical connotation and spiritual pursuit to today's rapid development, and discusses how the concept of "constant joy and self purity" is used in art in today's new art era. Performance. The performance of "Changle, Ijing" in artistic creation is reflected in the external image, showing the diversity of forms and the freedom of color, and in the spiritual core, it shows the attention to the process and the respect for the language of materials. The pursuit of direct sensory experience in creation.

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