# The contemporary expression of traditional jade carving intangible heritage technology

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**Abstract:** Jade carving is an intangible cultural heritage of Chinese tradition, which embodies the wisdom and creativity of Chinese artisans. However, in modern society, how to combine the traditional jade carving craft with modern art to adapt to the development of The Times and gain new vitality has become a challenge for the intangible cultural heritage craft. This paper mainly discusses the contemporary expression of traditional jade carving intangible cultural heritage craft, starting from the study of the fusion expression of traditional jade carving craft and other traditional intangible cultural heritage craft, and integrating into modern artistic expression.

Keywords: Jade carving, Modern craft, Non-genetic inheritance

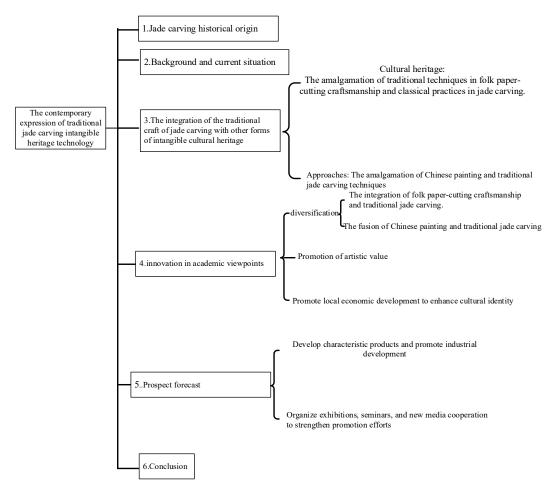
### 1. Introduction

Jade carving has a long history, dating back to the Neolithic Age. During the long years, jade carving has experienced constant development and evolution, forming traditional skills with different regional characteristics and styles. China's jade carving craft had begun to take shape in the Yin and Shang dynasties. After the inheritance and innovation of various dynasties and generations, it gradually formed the characteristics of delicate and exquisite craft. The representative works of traditional jade carving intangible heritage include "Jade cabbage", "Dragon and Phoenix auspicious", etc. These works all demonstrate the exquisite and unique skills of traditional Chinese jade carving. Through the historical origin of jade carving, the development status of jade carving, and the combination of paper cutting and jade carving, this paper not only improves the overall artistic value and ornamental value, but also increases the development of jade carving industry, hoping to inherit this skill sustainably. Figure 1 shows the thinking of this article.

#### 2. Background and current situation

With the changes of aesthetic perception in the new era, more and more people pay more attention to the uniqueness, individuality and innovation of jade carving works, as well as the selection of materials, composition and design, and the overall aesthetic feeling, which requires artists and designers to have certain artistic innovation in skills and design, and quickly integrate various artistic categories of expression techniques to better present the artistic effect of the works [1]. As one of the representative traditional intangible cultural heritage crafts, jade carving, as a jade carving craft with profound cultural heritage, is in urgent need of innovative development under the trend of the new era, breaking through traditional ways of expression, exploring more ways of development, and diversifying its development.

As a traditional plastic art in China, jade carving has a long history, extensive and profound, and is the branch of Chinese civilization [2]. At present, there are many artists and designers in China who have conducted in-depth research on jade carving craft and jade carving works. Most of them organically combine jade carving craft with traditional Chinese cultural elements, and express and interpret traditional cultural elements in visual form. Some of them also study jade carving craft to break through the dimensional wall and make innovative display in terms of materials and technologies. There are also cross-disciplinary cooperation. But there are some problems.



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Figure 1: Overall article structure

At present, the products sold in the jade market are scarce in quality and lack of innovative highlights. In terms of the subject matter, content and variety, they have been implemented for decades, the form is monotonous, too old, and there is almost no novel jade. As far as the current research on jade carving is concerned, the combination of jade carving and other intangible cultural heritage processes is few and far between. On the basis of China's traditional culture, the cultural connotation of jade is deeply excavated and developed, and the rich cultural connotation is the support to create jade carving artworks, which will be a direction with development prospects. Artists can combine the characteristics of jade with the characteristics of traditional culture, history and folk custom, and use modern techniques and thinking to present jade culture to more people [3]. At present, the country vigorously advocates the development of cultural industry, intangible cultural heritage technology by the masses is also increasing. The combination of traditional jade carving intangible cultural heritage technology and other intangible cultural heritage technology is undoubtedly a double output of traditional culture, but all aspects need to be reasonably integrated[4-5].

# **3.** The integration of traditional jade carving technology and other traditional intangible cultural heritage technology

The aesthetic characteristics of traditional jade carving mainly include auspicious meaning, unique shape and smooth lines. However, with the development of The Times and changes in aesthetic trends, the aesthetic of contemporary jade carvings has gradually developed towards diversification and individuation. Therefore, while maintaining the characteristics of traditional crafts, we must pay attention to the intangible cultural heritage technology and modern design concepts, integrate the traditional intangible cultural heritage properly, and enhance the modern sense and artistic appeal of jade carving works.

1) Starting from the cultural background: the fusion of folk paper-cutting craft and traditional jade carving. Folk paper-cut art and jade carving design have many similarities, such as creative thinking,

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modeling means, meaning beautiful and so on. And folk paper-cut art through its popular mental characteristics, unique design ideas and diversity of expression skills, to jade carving creation to provide profound cultural connotation. This multi-perspective, multi-dimensional, multi-faceted depiction breaks through the rational limitations of jade carving modeling, inspires the emergence of jade carving creativity, expands the means of expression and design concepts of jade carving, enhances the depth and basis of jade carving content, and indeed promotes the sustainable path of jade carving innovation and development.

2) Starting from the craft techniques: the integration of Chinese painting and traditional jade carving techniques. Traditional Chinese painting and jade carving art, in their own special forms of expression, have a long history with the Chinese civilization. After thousands of years of inheritance, they have been preserved until now [4]. In the process of jade carving creation, if painting and jade carving skills can be integrated to achieve the ingenious design of "painting in jade, painting melting jade", it will help to enhance the cultural connotation of jade works. Jade carving fully absorbs the composition method of traditional Chinese painting in the way of expression, attaches great importance to the spirit, emphasizes the beauty of artistic conception, and has the characteristics of vivid modeling. However, there is a big difference between jade carving and painting after all. In addition to presenting the creator's thoughts and aesthetic feeling, jade carving should also apply art based on materials and make use of the natural color and texture of jade materials [1]. Cotton and dreadlocks in jade materials are often regarded as fatal shortcomings, but we can learn from the composition and artistic conception of Chinese painting, skillfully avoid the existence of dreadlocks, and transform cotton into a unique image -- the sky is full of snow. Through exquisite carving techniques, the cotton in the jade is transformed into falling snowflakes, creating a peaceful and elegant atmosphere and making the jade works more artistic value and emotional charm.

#### 4. Contemporary innovation and development

1) Diversified innovation: Integrating jade carving craft with other traditional intangible heritage crafts to create more abundant and diversified art forms and works. Research is carried out from the two aspects of cultural background and craft techniques, and the suitable intangible cultural heritage craft for innovation is found from both aspects. The jade carving craft is combined with the traditional paper-cutting craft and the unique style of Chinese painting to produce a unique and novel artistic style, which provides profound cultural connotation to the creation of jade carving and promotes the sustainable path of jade carving innovation and development.

The fusion of folk paper-cutting craft and traditional jade carving. The texture of paper cutting has a unique artistic effect. The paper cutting technique is used on the surface of jade carving to produce a concave and convex texture, which increases the three-dimensional sense and layering of the work. The patterns and elements of paper cutting are applied to jade carving works, and the material and shape of jade carving can also be combined with paper cutting to create a unique art form. The use of paper-cutting techniques to produce jade carving works with hollow effect, through the hollow effect and part of the jade itself light transmission to produce lamp shell products, as shown in fig. 2.



Figure 2: Shell products

The fusion of Chinese painting and traditional jade carving. Integrating painting and jade carving

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techniques to achieve the clever design of "painting in jade, painting melting jade", drawing on the composition and artistic conception of traditional Chinese painting, cleverly avoiding the existence of locks, and transforming cotton into a unique image - snow in the sky. Through exquisite carving techniques, the cotton in the jade is transformed into falling snowflakes, creating a peaceful and elegant atmosphere. Jade carvings can also be added to Chinese painting works to create new forms of expression, as shown in fig. 3.



Figure 3: Chinese painting works

2) Improvement of artistic value: The integration of folk paper-cutting craft, Chinese painting and traditional jade carving promotes the technical exchange between the various crafts, enhances the inheritance and development of intangible cultural heritage craft, enhances the artistic value of the works, produces unique visual effects and artistic feelings, and makes the works more valuable for collection and viewing.

3) Promote the development of local economy and enhance the sense of cultural identity: the innovation of jade carving and traditional paper-cutting and Chinese painting drives the development of jade carving and paper-cutting and Chinese painting industries, such as tourism and cultural and creative industries, and brings new opportunities and impetus for the development of local economy. Traditional intangible cultural heritage crafts are an important part of national culture. By integrating the elements of different crafts, people can enhance their sense of identity and pride in traditional culture. Make positive contributions to the inheritance and promotion of Chinese culture.

#### 5. Prospects

Through the integration of folk paper-cut craft, traditional Chinese painting and traditional jade carving, we can develop innovative jade carving products with characteristics, promote the development of jade carving industry, and provide consumers with more high-quality and characteristic jade carving products.

Exhibitions and seminars are held to popularize the knowledge and skills of traditional jade carving to the public, display the ideas and works of innovative jade carving, improve people's awareness and respect for traditional culture, and at the same time let people receive the new products of traditional innovation. With the help of new media platforms such as the Internet and social media, the contemporary expression of traditional jade carving is promoted and its influence is expanded. With this research, we can better inherit and carry forward this excellent intangible cultural heritage, so that it can glow with new vitality and vitality in contemporary society.

#### 6. Conclusions

Traditional jade carving intangible cultural heritage is one of the treasures of Chinese culture, it carries rich cultural connotation and technical essence. In the contemporary society, we should attach importance to and protect this intangible cultural heritage craft, make it full of new vitality in the

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contemporary society through inheritance and innovation, and strive to make traditional jade carving have new forms of expression in the contemporary society. At the same time, we should strengthen the intangible cultural education of the younger generation, cultivate more inheritors and enthusiasts, and inject new impetus into the future development of this intangible cultural heritage craft. Only in this way can the traditional intangible cultural heritage craft of jade carving be inherited and developed in the contemporary society, and be cherished and loved by the world.

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