

# Exploration of Labor Education for Art College Students from the Perspective of Labor Aesthetics

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**Abstract:** Labor is the foundation for cultivating beauty, and “cultivating beauty through labor” is the major means for schools to educate students and cultivate talents. There is a close theoretical connection between labor aesthetics and labor education for art college students. The theoretical perspectives of the labor aesthetics can provide theoretical guidance and guiding ideas for the labor education for art college students, and contribute to developing students' aesthetic experience, creative development, self-realization, and social responsibility in labor. Therefore, labor education for art college students from the perspective of labor aesthetics is of great significance, and can further improve the students' artistic accomplishment and individual comprehensive quality.

**Keywords:** Labor Aesthetics; Art; College Students; Labor Education

## 1. Introduction

Labor aesthetics is a concept that combines labor with art, emphasizing the development of individual aesthetic ability and creativity through labor practice. Labor education plays an important role in the aesthetic education for art college students. It is not only a resource to foster students' comprehensive quality but also an important way to shape students' aesthetic taste and artistic pursuit. Labor can help students gain an understanding and obtain experience of artistic creations process through their hands-on practice, and cultivate excellent artistic skills and creativity.

## 2. Exploration of Deep Integration of Labor Aesthetics and Labor Education for Art College Students

### 2.1. Theoretical Basis of Labor Aesthetics

#### 2.1.1. The Concept and Development Course of Labor Aesthetics

Labor aesthetics is an aesthetic perspective and a research field that focuses on labor and labor process. It stresses that labor itself has the value and significance of beauty, and believes that labor is the embodiment of human creativity and practical ability, as well as the foundation of social life and culture development. The origin of labor aesthetics can be traced back to the work *Metaphysics* by ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, who believed that labor is an essential activity of human beings and an important means for humans to achieve self-worth and happiness[1]. Labor aesthetics revived in Europe in 18th century. Germany philosopher Immanuel Kant thought that labor reflects the freedom and rationality of human, and linked labor with aesthetic experience. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel regarded labor as the interactive process between humans and nature, and considered it an important aspect of self-realization and social development[2]. In 20th century, labor aesthetics developed further and gained attention. In recent years, the labor aesthetics has expanded its research fields, including the social and cultural background of labor, worker's identity and labor conditions and cross analysis of the relations between labor and such factors as environment, technology, and gender. Overall, in the concept and development course of labor aesthetics, labor is regarded as an important activity that is creative and helpful to individuals' self-realization, and labor's aesthetic value and significance are explored through studying labor process and experience of workers.

#### 2.1.2. Theoretical Connection between Labor Aesthetics and Labor Education for Art College Students

There are theoretical connections and relations between labor aesthetics and labor education for art

college students. They would be illustrated in four aspects. First, the aesthetic significance of labor: labor aesthetics focuses on the beauty and aesthetic value of labor, believing that labor itself is of not only practical and economical value but also the charm of beauty. Labor education for art college students can cultivate their aesthetic vision and perception by guiding students to observe and taste the beauty of labor. Second, the relationship between labor and creativity: labor aesthetics believes that labor contains creative factors, and the process and results of labor can exhibit the characteristics of creation, uniqueness and originality. The labor education for art college students can encourage students to use their own creative minds and distinctive expressions in the process of artistic creation and production through cultivating their labor creativity. Third, the relationship between labor and self-realization: labor aesthetics emphasizes the importance of labor to self-realization and development of the individuals. Labor education can help students discover their own interests and passions and obtain self-satisfaction and growth, thereby realizing personal values and artistic pursuits. Fourth, the relationship between labor and social responsibility: labor aesthetics believes that labor has social significance and social responsibility, and labor education can guide students contribute their talents and creativity in labor through developing their sense of social responsibility.

## ***2.2. Exploration of the Deep Integration of Labor Aesthetics into Labor Education for Art College Students***

### ***2.2.1. Labor Aesthetics Emphasizing the Creativity of Labor***

The labor education for art college students should focus on developing students' creativity and practical ability. Labor aesthetics emphasizes that labor has the value and significance of beauty in itself, which can help students re-examine labor from an artistic perspective and inspire them to explore the way of expressing beauty in labor. The creativity of labor is the core view of labor aesthetics. The great attention to students' creativity and practical ability in labor education for art college students can significantly improve students' labor skills and artistic expression ability. The students can find their own potential and talent in practice, and then transform them into creativity and innovation in labor practice. The value and significance of labor aesthetics to labor are widely supported and verified. The elements of beauty inherent in labor can inspire students to experience beauty. Research has found that students can review labor from an artistic perspective and discover the hidden beauty in labor through observation and participation in labor. Moreover, students can explore all kinds of forms of artistic expression, such as painting, music and dance, etc., thereby integrating the elements of beauty into labor practice.

### ***2.2.2. Labor Aesthetics Valuing the Practical Experience of Labor***

Labor aesthetics focuses on physical perception and experience in labor, emphasizing that labor is a hands-on activity. Art college students can gain a deeper understanding of different details and characteristics of labor by personal participation in labor activity, thereby better understanding the essence of labor. The practical experience of students has great significance to their artistic creation. Through applying the experience obtained in actual labor activity into artistic creation, students can better express their understanding and perception of labor. This not only improves the understanding of various labor forms, but also cultivates their observations and creativity, which has a direct inspiration for students' artistic creation. Labor is not only a thinking activity but also a process of physical perception and experience, which is of great significance for the growth of art college students.

### ***2.2.3. Labor Aesthetics Advocating the Social Significance of Labor***

Labor aesthetics emphasizes the social significance of labor, that is, labor is not only a necessity for individual life but also the core for social operation. Labor is the cornerstone of social production and economic development. Through participation in different forms of labor, people can create and produce various resources and products to meet the needs of society. Under the concept of labor aesthetics, labor education for art college students should focus on conveying labor's importance to society, and help students recognize the contribution of their labor to society. It is very important for students to understand the contribution of all kinds of labor forms to society. According to Marxist, labor can achieve and create all kinds of material wealth through people's actual labor processes, thereby meeting the needs of society. By comparison, in the field of art, different forms of labor can produce various artistic works and cultural products, enriching people's spiritual life, and forming diverse cultural development. Through labor education, students are encouraged to think that how their own labor is related to social value. The thinking is helpful to develop students' social responsibility and civic awareness, making them focus more on social issues and proactively take part in social affairs

to become more valuable and meaningful members in society.

#### ***2.2.4. Labor Aesthetics Promoting the Development of Cross Disciplinary Research between Labor and Art***

The study of labor aesthetics taps new fields of the interdisciplinary research between labor and art, which has gradually attracted more attention of scholars. The study of labor aesthetics has extended to the cross analysis of factors such as labor environment, technology and gender. The integration of comfortable labor environment and aesthetic elements into labor can improve worker's efficiency and satisfactory, and the use of artistic elements in labor can enhance the creativity and innovation of technical work. The interdisciplinary study between labor and gender is also conducive to eliminating the gender inequality in the division of labor. The research results of labor aesthetics can be referenced and applied in labor education for art college students. By integrating the theory of labor aesthetics into the labor education, interdisciplinary research and innovation in fields such as art and labor, art and society, and art and technology can be promoted. This is of great significance to improve students' comprehensive quality, cultivating their creativity and innovation awareness. Therefore, when designing and implementing labor education for art college students, it is necessary to fully consider the relevant research results of labor aesthetics to promote the development of interdisciplinary research and innovation.

Therefore, the application of labor aesthetics into labor education for art college students aims to cultivate students' creativity and practical abilities, strengthen their understanding of practical experience and social significance of labor, and promote interdisciplinary research and innovation between labor and art. This helps to cultivate students' comprehensive development and interdisciplinary thinking abilities, improve their artistic creation level and enhance their sense of social responsibility.

### ***2.3. Current Situation and Problems of Labor Education for Art College Students***

#### ***2.3.1. Characteristics and Objectives of Labor Education for Art College Students***

Labor education for art college students requires students to acquire comprehensive knowledge and skills in different fields of labor, including creation, production, performance, and other aspects. It pays attention to students' practical experience to cultivate their practical abilities and creativity through personal participation in labor activities. It encourages students to engage in innovative practices during the labor process to cultivate their independent thinking and creative abilities, and requires them to apply their knowledge and skills of different disciplines such as art, technology, and social sciences in labor. It is aimed to develop professional skills, enabling students to possess solid basic skills in their field of expertise and master the requirements of different majors such as creation, performance, and production; to cultivate students' creativity and practical abilities through labor education, developing their ability to actively display their individuality and professional skills in artistic creation and practice; to develop their ability to collaborate with others, improving their performance and communication skills in collective creation and performance. Moreover, through guiding students to pay attention to social issues and challenges, it aims to cultivate their sense of social responsibility, combining their artistic creations with social development and the requirements of the times. The labor education encourages students to integrate knowledge from different disciplinary fields in labor education to cultivate their comprehensive abilities and innovative thinking.

#### ***2.3.2. Problems and Challenges in Labor Education for Art College Students***

The labor education for art college students faces issues and challenges such as diversity of training content, balance between education and creativity, balance between education and market demand, integration of education and technology, and social recognition and support. It is required to balance the training needs of different professional fields in labor education, so that students can acquire comprehensive knowledge and skills. Second, it is necessary to pay more attention to students' creativity and personality development to protect their creativity and autonomy. Third, labor education for art college students needs to match market demand and cultivate students with employability and innovation abilities. However, with market demand constantly changing, cultivating talents that meet market demand is an inevitable challenge. Fourth, the application of technology in art field is becoming increasingly widespread. It is required to make reasonable use of technological education tools in labor education for art college students, integrate them with art education, and improve teaching effectiveness. In short, addressing these issues requires continuous attention and research, as well as active education reform and innovation.

#### ***2.4. Practice and Effect Evaluation of Labor Education for Art College Students from the Perspective of Labor Aesthetics***

The following case studies are used to demonstrate the specific implementation and exploration of labor aesthetics in labor education for college students majoring in labor aesthetics and art, and the effects of the practices were evaluated:

##### ***Case 1: Community Labor Practice Project for Students of the Design and Art Department of Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts***

**Implementation Measures:** Organize students to participate in the planning and execution of community cultural activities in the labor education for students in the department of design and art, including the design and production of community public art installations, and the planning and organization of community art exhibitions. By participating in community labor practice, the students combined art with community culture to experience the beauty and social significance of labor. According to feedback from the organizer of a community art exhibition, students' participation in the planning and organization of community art exhibitions had brought various forms of cultural exchange and artistic appreciation opportunities to the community. By interacting with community residents, students could understand the needs and characteristics of the community, and better integrate art with community culture. The practice stimulated students' enthusiasm and inspiration for artistic creation, and gave them an opportunity to experience the beauty and social significance of labor.

**Effect Evaluation:** The practice's effect was evaluated through such methods as student engagement, community feedback, and student reflection. Students with more participation exhibited more initiative and critical thinking in classroom discussions, achieving better academic performance. The recognition from and influence on the community were also important aspects of evaluating the effect of community labor practice projects. The higher the level of recognition, the greater the enthusiasm and motivation for students' participation. The summary report written by students was also an important reference for evaluating the effect. By writing a summary report to share their experience and gains in labor practice, students were encouraged to deeply and comprehensively reflect on the knowledge they had learned. Students could describe the challenges they had encountered in community labor practice, share their solutions and strategies to overcome difficulties, as well as the experience and lessons they had gained. The summary report was helpful to evaluate and understand students' growth and development in community labor practice.

##### ***Case 2: Creative Labor Project for Students in the Art and Crafts Department of Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts***

**Implementation Measures:** Design a creative labor project that requires students to combine labor with creativity by means of artistic creation. For example, some students had designed some handicrafts with artistic characteristics. In the process of making handicrafts, students not only learned handicraft skills but also could unleash their creativity.

**Effect Evaluation:** Evaluation could be conducted through the presentation and assessment of students' achievements in these aspects such as creativity, technicality, quality of handicrafts, and students' collaborative ability in the production process. At the same time, students' self evaluation and opinions on their own crafts were also important aspects for evaluation.

##### ***Case 3: Technology and Art Integration Project for students in Cross-Media Art Department of Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts***

**Implementation Measures:** Integrate technology with art, use technological tools such as virtual reality and augmented reality, utilize technology in artistic creation and labor processes, and expand the expression forms and auxiliary tools of art. For example, students could use virtual reality technology for painting creation or augmented reality technology for stage design.

**Effect Evaluation:** Evaluation can be conducted through the technological achievements applied by students in the creation of their works. It could be examined in aspects such as innovation, the effectiveness of technology application, and students' development in the integration of technology and art. At the same time, spectators' feedback and evaluation on the work were also important aspects for evaluation.

The labor aesthetics theory in labor education for art college students could be verified and optimized through specific implementation exploration and effectiveness evaluation, thereby promoting the aesthetic experience and creative development of art college students in labor.

### 3. Conclusion

Labor has not only practical and economic value but also unique aesthetic significance. Art college students' labor education guided them to observe and taste the beauty of labor, allowing them to re-recognize labor from an aesthetic perspective, and enhancing their recognition and understanding of the aesthetic value of labor. Labor not only is a practical activity, but also contains creative factors. The process and results of labor could exhibit characteristics of innovation, uniqueness, and originality. Labor education encouraged students to use their innovative thinking and unique expressions in artistic creation and production by cultivating their labor creativity. Labor aesthetics believes that labor can help students find their own interests and passions and achieve self-satisfaction and growth, thereby realizing personal value and artistic pursuit. Labor is of social significance and responsibility. Labor education for art college students guided them to combine art with social development through cultivating their sense of social responsibility. In terms of theoretical exploration and evaluation of practical projects, it can be seen that the labor education project had found a convergence point between "cultivating beauty through labor" and the major of art. It could innovate the practical method of "cultivating beauty through labor", achieve the mutual interaction between labor education and aesthetics education, that is, the aesthetic education is developed and practiced with the help of labor education, and, in turn, labor education progresses through aesthetic education, thereby promoting the improvement of art college students' comprehensive quality.

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