

# Innovative Application of Color in the Creation of Chinese Painting

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**Abstract:** As one of the representatives of traditional Chinese painting, Chinese painting has always paid attention to the expression of line drawing and ink painting, and its color application is relatively conservative. The purpose of this paper is to explore the ways of introducing color innovation in the creation of Chinese painting in order to expand the possibility of painting expression. The paper reviews the history and tradition of Chinese painting, especially the tradition of color application. The basic concepts of color theory and psychology are explored in order to better understand the influence of color on artistic creation. This paper introduces modern color tools and techniques, as well as color blending and mixing techniques, and how these tools and techniques are applied in Chinese painting. This paper deeply studies the innovative application of color in Chinese painting, and discusses how to introduce more color elements while retaining traditional elements.

**Keywords:** Chinese painting; Color innovation; Tradition; Modern; The artist; Color theory; Psychology

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## Introduction

As a precious heritage of traditional Chinese painting, Chinese painting carries the essence of thousands of years of artistic tradition and culture. With ink painting, line painting and the Green Landscape painting as the main expression, Chinese painting pursue a minimalist, implicit, and abstract aesthetic, and is highly praised worldwide. However, traditional Chinese painting works are relatively conservative in terms of color that is usually black, white, gray and a small amount of green color. The conservative nature of this traditional color application limits the expressive power of Chinese painting to a certain extent, makes it slightly inadequate in the competition in the field of contemporary art.

## 1. The Color Tradition of Chinese Painting

### 1.1 The tradition of color application in Chinese painting

Despite the rich and varied history of Chinese painting, its reliance on ink painting and its emphasis on line are seen as traditional important features. Traditional Chinese paintings usually use ink, inkstone and paper as the medium, with black, white, gray and a small amount of green as the main colors. This tradition of color application reflects the unique recognition of culture, philosophy and aesthetics in Chinese painting, emphasizes the inner spirit and emotional expression. In the tradition of Chinese painting, color is often secondary, and it is mainly to enhance the expression of lines and composition.

The tradition of color application in Chinese painting also emphasizes the aesthetic viewpoint of traditional literati painters, who sought to transcend the realm of the world and usually expressed a deep, quiet and abstract atmosphere in their works. This aesthetic pursuit led Chinese painters to reduce the use of color to a minimum in order to better highlight the expression of emotions and ideas. The application of color in Chinese painting has always been relatively conservative and paid more attention to the expression of line drawing and ink painting.

## 2. Color Theory and Psychology

### 2.1 Basic theory of color

Color is a core element in the visual arts, which contains rich and diverse attributes and has a profound impact on artistic expression. In order to better understand the application of color in the creation of Chinese painting, it is necessary to first explore the basic theory

of color. The three main properties of color are hue, brightness and saturation.

Hue is the basic property of color that describes the position of color on the color wheel. The color wheel is usually divided into 12 basic colors, including red, orange, yellow, green, cyan, blue, purple, etc. In Chinese painting, choosing a specific hue can convey different emotions and meanings, so it is crucial to choose hue.

Brightness refers to the degree of light and shade of color. Colors with higher brightness appear brighter, while colors with lower brightness are dimmer. By adjusting the brightness of the colors, Chinese painters can create light and shadow effects in their works, which adds the dimension and depth.

Saturation indicates the vividness of the color, that is, the intensity and purity of the color. Colors with high saturation are more vibrant, while colors with low saturation are softer. In Chinese painting, choosing the right saturation can convey the emotions and emotions desired in the works.

## **2.2 Color psychology**

Color psychology studies the effects of color on human emotions, cognition, and behavior and provides valuable insight for artists to better communicate and touch their audiences. In Chinese painting, the application of the principles of color psychology can enhance the expressive force and emotional resonance of the works.

The influence of color on human emotions is multifaceted. For example, red is often associated with passion, love and strength, yellow often conveys joy and warmth, and blue may trigger feelings of calm and tranquility. By choosing the right colors, Chinese painters can directly touch the audience's emotions and convey the emotional themes they want to express.

## **3. Modern Color Application Techniques**

### **3.1 Modern color tools and techniques**

Digital painting is a creative way that combines traditional and digital art. With a digital drawing pad and pen, artists can draw on a computer and use a variety of drawing software to control color, line, and composition. This method allows the artist to constantly experiment with new color combinations, as well as modify and correct the work more quickly. For Chinese painters, digital painting provides a platform to explore the application of color more boldly while preserving traditional features.

Color processing software is also an important part of modern color applications. The software allows artists to conduct post process of existing works, adjust color, brightness, contrast ratio and saturation. By using these tools, Chinese painters can precisely fine-tune the colors of their works to meet their aesthetic needs. In addition, these software offers a variety of special effects and filters that allow artists to experiment with different artistic styles and effects.

These modern color tools and techniques provide Chinese painters with more freedom and creative space, and enable them to better explore the world of color. However, it should be noted that these tools, while powerful, still require deep understanding and creativity of the artist to apply them in the unique context of Chinese painting.

### **3.2 Color blending and mixing techniques**

In addition to digital painting and color processing software, Chinese painters also need to understand how to effectively adjust and blend colors in traditional paper and ink paintings. Color blending and mixing techniques are essential to preserve the traditional characteristics of Chinese painting, while providing artists with more creative possibilities.

In Chinese painting, commonly used color adjustment methods include fading, thickening, gradient, washing, and dry brushing. These techniques allow the artist to fine-tune the brightness and saturation of the colors to suit the needs of the work. When mixing colors, artists can use different brushes, water, and ink to achieve smooth transitions, so as to create a more varied color effect. These techniques helped Chinese painters to experiment and create new color expressions in traditional painting mediums.

Another important trick is to use opacity and cascading effects. By properly adjusting the concentration of ink and overlaying multiple layers of color on paper, Chinese painters can enhance depth, texture and visual effects. These techniques make Chinese paintings more layered, but also enhance the expression of color.

The integration of modern color tools and techniques and traditional color blending and mixing techniques have provided Chinese painters with more creative freedom and inspiration and enabled them to better explore the way colors are expressed, and thus create more colorful works.

## **4. Innovative Application of Color in Chinese Painting**

### **4.1 Deepen the color in Chinese painting**

Traditional Chinese paintings usually use black, white, gray and a small amount of green as the main colors. However, in order

to achieve color innovation and broaden the performance range of Chinese painting, artists began to explore how to introduce more color elements in Chinese painting. This attempt aims to better convey emotions, express themes and attract the audience through the deepening of color.

We can explore how brightness and saturation can be used to enhance color performance. By adding brightness, Chinese painters can make colors brighter and more vivid to attract the viewer's eye. This method is especially useful when representing light and shadow and joy. On the other hand, by adjusting the saturation, the artist can control the intensity of the colors, from soft tones to vivid saturated colors, to suit different emotions and themes. This way can make Chinese paintings more expressive and better convey the artist's intention.

## 4.2 Integrate tradition and modernity

While exploring color innovation, Chinese painters also face the challenge of preserving traditional elements and essence. Traditional Chinese painting emphasizes intrinsic emotions, cultural connotations, and aesthetic values, which are the unique characteristics of Chinese painting. Therefore, when introducing modern color applications, artists need to find a balance point to maintain important traditional features.

One method is to integrate traditional and modern color applications to complement each other. Artists can try to add more color elements to the traditional composition and lines of Chinese painting to enrich the layers and visual effects of their works. This fusion can be achieved by carefully selecting colors, maintaining traditional aesthetic principles, and creating works with a sense of modernity.

Another approach is to view color innovation as a creative approach parallel to tradition, which means that Chinese painters can continue to create traditional black and white ink works, at the same time, explore works with the use of more colors. In this way, they can showcase different artistic styles in different works, attract different audiences, and also leave space for the tradition and future of Chinese painting.

When attempting to integrate traditional and modern color applications, artists need to maintain an open mindset, be willing to accept new challenges and attempts, while respecting and preserving the traditional values of Chinese painting. This fusion can inject new vitality into Chinese painting and make it continue to be unique and important in the field of contemporary art. By deepening the color of Chinese painting and integrating tradition and modernity, artists have the opportunity to create more expressive and cultural works to promote the development and inheritance of Chinese painting.

## Conclusion:

Color innovation has brought new opportunities and challenges to Chinese painting. Chinese painters can explore new artistic possibilities on the basis of tradition, while also maintaining respect for tradition in innovation. Color innovation not only injects new vitality into Chinese painting, but also makes it more internationally competitive. Through continuous experimentation and exploration, Chinese painters can continue to inherit and develop this precious artistic tradition, and make it continue to shine in the contemporary art world. I hope this paper can stimulate more research and creation, and provide more inspiration and guidance for color innovation in Chinese painting.

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