On Ceramic Art Education in Combination of Craft and Art

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Ceramic art is an excellent representative of Chinese traditional culture and an important carrier of Chinese civilization. Ceramic art education is gradually integrating into the contemporary art education system and becoming an important method and means to cultivate aesthetic ability and practical ability. At present, ceramic education lacks systematic and continuous courses and ignores the scientific and technological connotation of ceramic technology itself. We should perfect the curriculum of ceramic technology, strengthen the popularization of ceramic science, pay attention to the combination of science and technology and art, and strengthen the inheritance and popularization of excellent traditional ceramic culture.

Keywords: technology, ceramic art, education, craft

Ceramic art is an excellent representative of Chinese traditional culture, bearing the glorious Chinese civilization, a material embodiment of practicality and artistry, and an important carrier of China’s hard power in science and technology and soft power in culture. Ceramic art education is gradually integrating into the contemporary art education system, becoming an important method and means to cultivate aesthetic ability and practical ability, and has achieved a series of rich teaching achievements. Today, with the continuous establishment and development of "Cultural Self-Confidence", how to make better use of the excellent traditional ceramic culture, and strengthen the organization of educational activities of ceramic art education among the majority of children needs to be based on the characteristics of the "Combination of Skills" of ceramic art itself. The curriculum systems need to be developed and innovated. The ceramic art courses needs to be developed with more characteristics of ceramic art form. The unique value and status of pottery in the children's art education system needs to be established, so that it can better meet and adapt to the needs of current quality education.

The Role of Ceramic Art in Children’s Education

Develop Aesthetic and Artistic Perception Skills

Ceramic art works are three-dimensional figurative carriers with good artistic performance, and have high artistry. Ceramic art works express artistic expression through modeling and glaze color. Its various three-dimensional forms and rich decorative effects can stimulate artistic emotions and cultivate and improve artistic aesthetic ability. Through the appreciation and production of ceramic art works, in addition to obtaining...
inspiration for artistic creation and enriching artistic emotions, it can also improve the cognition and identification of beauty through vision, touch, and even hearing. For example, the characteristics of traditional Chinese ceramics, which are “white as jade, bright as a mirror, thin as paper, and sound like a chime”, are artistic processing that is difficult to express in specific words. It generates psychological feelings and stimulates resonance. From the appearance of ceramic works of art, it triggers artistic inspiration from the heart, and promotes the establishment and development of perceptual thinking and humanistic feelings.

**Improve Hands-on and World-Changing Abilities**

The creative process of ceramic art works is the sublimation process of artistic expression realized through technical means. Ceramic art is a three-dimensional art form with glazed decoration. It needs to be based on the basic principles of ceramic technology, supplemented by specific tools, and through logically set steps, that is, it needs to be achieved through certain methods, means, and processes. A new form of matter is realized. The ceramic art course creates a brand-new and artistic expression through hands-on practice, trying to use tools, following methods and steps. This process promotes the practical ability, strengthens the practice, sharpens the will, and further improves the outlook on life, world outlook and values for understanding and transforming the world. Because of this, the ceramic art course shows its unique advantages in modeling creation, three-dimensional thinking, and hands-on ability training through the completion of figurative modeling works.

**Stimulate and Develop Scientific Awareness**

“Ceramic Art” is not only the abbreviation of “Art of Ceramic”, but also a unique artistic expression that includes the scientific and technological connotation of “Ceramic Craft”. Ceramic technology is a process that includes the whole process of complete ceramic production, including the preparation process of mining, crushing, screening, panning, slurrying, precipitation, dehydration, kneading, etc. The molding process such as dry powder pressing, then decoration such as engraving, scribing, carving, and engraving, then painting and glazing, and the whole process of firing in a full kiln, has a strong scientific and logical nature, which is the basis for the artistry of ceramic art works. Embody the theoretical and practical foundations. By participating in the whole ceramic process, you can further understand the physical and chemical knowledge involved in the ceramic process, better understand the process logic of the production and processing of ceramic works, have a deeper understanding of the unique artistic charm of ceramic works that is different from other art forms and value, stimulate and cultivate scientific and technological awareness in the process, and promote the establishment of rational thinking.

**Spread and Build Cultural Confidence**

The achievements of ancient Chinese ceramic art are splendid and splendid. It is one of the most proud and praised sources of cultural confidence in Chinese civilization. The Chinese ceramic art works in history have led the development of global material civilization and spiritual culture by virtue of their superb monopoly technical achievements and exquisite artistic style. In the history of more than a thousand years from the second half of the second century to the first half of the 19th century, relying on the refinement and improvement of porcelain raw materials, as well as the mastery of kiln masonry and high temperature technology, Chinese ceramics have become the leading and world-leading representative of technology products. On the basis of craftsmanship, ancient porcelain craftsmen continues to improve the molding method, enhance the decoration skills, and improve the artistic expression, and produces a large number of ceramic art products with great artistic expression and Chinese traditional cultural characteristics. In the ceramic art course, displaying and
promoting the excellent traditional Chinese ceramic culture in a multi-dimensional way will help to further understand the advanced scientific and technological and artistic achievements of ancient China, deepen the cognition and understanding of the relationship between science, art, and culture, and further establish Chinese “Cultural Confidence”.

Current Situation of Ceramic Art Education

Positive and Rich Results Have Been Achieved

At present, ceramic art education has been gradually integrated into the education and training system; especially in art education, ceramic art courses have been accepted by more and more teachers, students, and parents. The current ceramic art education organization forms are also diversified, including classroom teaching, ceramic art competitions, etc., as well as some forms of ceramic art training and experience. For example, in the stage of public compulsory education, ceramic art has become the teaching content selected by schools, and the masonry tools required for ceramic art have also become the necessary learning tools for art education in primary and secondary schools. In the stage of higher education, there are ceramic art majors offered by art colleges represented by Jingdezhen Ceramic University, Tsinghua University Academy of Fine Arts, and other colleges and universities. In the market-oriented education and training industry, some training institutions have offered ceramic art courses and other forms of ceramic art experience provided by physical places such as ceramic art bars. The ceramic art education resources have been allocated within the scope of the market economy, which has become a powerful supplement to ceramic art education, and basically meet the needs of ceramic art education. At present, ceramic art education has achieved rich teaching results and obtained positive social benefits, which has greatly promoted the cultivation and improvement of aesthetic ability, modeling ability, three-dimensional thinking ability, and hands-on ability.

Lack of Systematic and Continuous Curriculum

The current ceramic art education generally shows the lack of systematic and continuous curriculum and curriculum experience. The most common situation is that in the ceramic art course offered by the school, children only learn kneading, drawing, or other modeling methods, and rarely involve other steps of ceramic craftsmanship. In addition, in market-oriented training institutions, parents do not have high demand for long-term and continuous training or experience in ceramic art courses, and the renewal rate of students is low, which is significantly lower than that of other art training courses. These reasons are, on the one hand, that ceramic art itself requires a high level of professional ability, and requires a certain art foundation and modeling skills. On the other hand, most of the current ceramic art courses generally only emphasize the modeling process, and it is inevitable to experience other processes. Therefore, children's ceramic courses are often regarded as "playing with mud".

Out of Process Logic and Creative Reality

Although people have deeply and widely recognized the role of ceramic art education in cultivating aesthetic and practical ability, there are still many problems in teaching practice. Ceramic art is an artistic processed product that includes three main processes of ceramic production, including the basic steps of ceramic technology such as raw material preparation, molding decoration, and kiln firing. Therefore, “Ceramic Art” should be an art that includes the whole process of complete ceramic craftsmanship, not just “Clay Sculpture”. In ceramic technology, raw material preparation and firing are the most critical technological
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processes, and the current ceramic art education just ignores and weakens the most critical and most valuable stage process of ceramic art. The modeling process is only a step in the production process of ceramic art works, but the current ceramic art education focuses on the modeling process, such as only instructing students to use masonry tools to draw blanks, wire rods or decoration, while ignoring other important. The process steps ignore the scientific and technological connotation of the ceramic process itself. Ceramic art must contain technical and craftsmanship. If one-sided pursuit of childlike innocence and open production ideas, and departure from the logic of ceramic craftsmanship, it will be misleading and separate the technical and artistic foundations of ceramic art. This is not a rigorous ceramic art education thinking. If the substantive connotation of the combination of technology and artistry in the ceramic art course is ignored, it is also not conducive to the popularization of ceramics and the cultivation of rigorous scientific and technological thinking. At present, some ceramic art courses focus on the modeling process, and the “Ceramic Art” course is one-sidedly understood as “Clay Sculpture” or “Mud Worker”. And the actual phenomenon of ceramic art creation should not be the correct development direction of ceramic art courses.

Development Direction of Ceramic Art Curriculum System

Overall Develop of Curriculum System

The ceramic art curriculum system should focus on the integrity and logic of the ceramic process, and develop a complete set of teaching content for the ceramic process. The ceramic art course should be based on the basic situation of adolescents’ mental development, conform to the general laws of education, combine the physical and mental characteristics of children, and use existing technical means from multiple angles and multiple dimensions to provide learning content that meets the interests and academic development of adolescents. For example, in the preparation process of ceramic raw materials, the process of making ceramic raw materials from ore to being processed into plastic mud or usable glaze can be displayed through physical or multimedia display; in the firing part, the curriculum setting plan should be improved, the corresponding hardware facilities should be equipped, and the practical guidance operation should be strengthened to guide the young people to complete the complete ceramic works by themselves. It is necessary to guide people to have a deep understanding of ceramic technology and ensure that the logical relationship of each process is reasonable, so that young people can allocate the required raw materials according to the production needs, set the molding and decoration methods by themselves, and set the firing system according to the process characteristics, until a complete ceramic art work is completed. This not only increases the science and interest of the ceramic art course, but also increases the practicality of the course.

Pay Attention to Ceramic Science

Ceramic technology includes professional content such as raw material analysis, testing, machinery, and thermal energy, and contains rich and rigorous physical and chemical knowledge. It is an excellent carrier for scientific dissemination and education. In the setting of ceramic art education courses, the dissemination and education of science and technology and related subject knowledge contained in ceramic art can be taken as an important course content. It can combine ceramic art teaching with popular science, enrich the connotation of ceramic art education, broaden the knowledge field of ceramic art teaching, and enrich the organizational form of ceramic art teaching. In the ceramic art education system, the important role of the popularization of ceramic technology should be highlighted, the construction of the connotation of ceramic technology in the ceramic art
curriculum system should be strengthened, the means and methods of expression of ceramic technology should be enriched, the interest and practicality of the experience of ceramic technology should be enhanced, and the popular science function of ceramic art education should be enhanced as well.

**Focus on the Integration of Technology and Art**

Ceramic art education should also focus on the deep integration of technology and art. People increasingly realize that science and art are inseparable, like two sides of a coin; their common foundation is human creativity, and the goal they pursue is the universality of truth. In the production process of ceramic works of art, scientific principles and technical means are the theoretical basis and practical support for the production of ceramic works of art, as well as the starting point of inspiration for ceramic art creation. Only by basing itself on science and relying on technology can ceramic works of art inherit tradition continue to innovate and develop in depth. Therefore, in the content setting and teaching methods of ceramic art courses, it is possible to combine the integration of technology and art, integrate the latest technical means, broaden the vision of children, improve the ability of divergent thinking and comprehensive knowledge processing, and help children establish the concept of pursuing objective truth and establish a positive attitude towards study and life.

**Tell the Story of Chinese Traditional Ceramic Culture**

The ceramic art course should tell the story of traditional Chinese ceramics culture. The ceramic art of ancient China has achieved brilliant achievements and carried various forms of ceramic culture. In terms of craftsmanship, ancient Chinese ceramic craftsmanship reflects monopoly and leadership, and exclusive scientific and technological terms such as “Kaolin” are born; in terms of artistic achievements, there are five famous kilns, blue and white, pastel and other art varieties; many historical legends and stories of firing present the labor wisdom of ancient Chinese porcelain craftsmen from multiple perspectives. These cultural forms related to ceramic production are the concentrated expression and value of excellent traditional Chinese culture. Therefore, in the setting of ceramic art courses, attention should be paid to highlighting the achievements of Chinese ceramics in technology, culture, and art culture, making full use of the unique form and charm of Chinese traditional ceramic culture, cultivating a sense of cultural pride and a sense of mission to inherit and carry forward excellent traditional Chinese culture, and further promoting the establishment of “cultural confidence” in the new era.

**Conclusion**

Ceramic art courses have been gradually integrated into the current art education system, and the cultivation of aesthetic and practical abilities has gradually been recognized by the society, and has achieved positive results. In view of the current lack of systematic courses and some problems of ignoring the logic of ceramic craftsmanship in ceramic art teaching practice, the curriculum setting should be strengthened in terms of the integrity of ceramic craftsmanship. It is necessary to strengthen the popularization of ceramics, pay attention to the combination of ceramics technology and art, and increase the dissemination, education, and popularization of excellent traditional ceramics culture. On the basis of strengthening and improving the curriculum, further use social resources, configure necessary facilities, train qualified teachers, and continuously enrich teaching content and methods, so that ceramic art education can better meet the needs of the current society.
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References


