



Classification of Chinese Traditional Jade Carvings

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Abstract

Background and Aim: The art of jade carving is a vital carrier of Chinese cultural values and aesthetic ideals. However, systematic classification research on traditional Chinese jade carvings remains limited. This study aims to construct a comprehensive classification framework from the perspectives of modeling, craftsmanship, and themes.

Materials and Methods: A multi-method approach was adopted, combining literature review, physical artifact analysis, expert interviews, and market research. These methods ensured a thorough understanding of the artistic diversity and evolving practices of jade carving.

Results: The study developed a detailed three-dimensional classification system for traditional Chinese jade carvings. It revealed four modeling types, multiple craftsmanship techniques, and major thematic categories, showcasing the rich cultural connotations and technical innovation of jade art.

Conclusion: By systematically classifying traditional Chinese jade carvings, this research deepens the understanding of their artistic value and cultural significance. It provides theoretical support for the preservation, education, and creative development of jade carving in contemporary contexts.

Keywords: Chinese Traditional Jade Carving; Modeling Classification; Craftsmanship Classification; Thematic Classification; Cultural Heritage

Introduction

Traditional Chinese jade carving is one of the most enduring and sophisticated forms of cultural expression in Chinese civilization. For thousands of years, jade has been revered not only for its physical beauty and durability but also for its symbolic association with moral virtue, cosmological order, and social hierarchy. From the Neolithic period through the Qing dynasty, jade artifacts played a central role in religious rituals, state ceremonies, personal adornment, and philosophical symbolism (Rawson, 1995). According to Chen (2014), jade carving evolved as a unique art form combining aesthetic ideals with functional and spiritual purposes, making it a rich repository of Chinese cultural values.

However, despite its historical importance and abundant material legacy, systematic scholarly analysis of jade carving—particularly in terms of classification—is still relatively limited. Much of the existing literature concentrates on specific periods, techniques, or symbolic meanings in isolation. For example, Li (2015) focused on the role of symbolism in jade objects, while Dong (2013) explored innovation and the blending of traditional craftsmanship with modern artistic language. These studies have contributed important insights but tend to lack a holistic perspective that integrates multiple dimensions of jade carving—namely, form, method, and meaning—into a unified analytical framework.

Moreover, the lack of a comprehensive classification system has practical consequences for museums, educators, designers, and cultural preservationists. Without a clear taxonomy, it becomes difficult to interpret jade artifacts within their broader artistic and cultural context or to guide their application in contemporary creative practices. As Bu (2004) argues, traditional arts must be re-contextualized through systematic analysis in order to ensure their relevance and sustainability in a modern cultural industry. This is especially important in the case of jade carving, which is not only a historical artifact but also a living art form that continues to evolve.

In response to these challenges, this study aims to construct a three-dimensional classification framework for traditional Chinese jade carvings. The proposed model organizes jade carving into three core dimensions: modeling (formal structure and design typology), craftsmanship (technical methods and carving approaches), and thematic content (narrative or symbolic subject matter). Through a combination of literature review, physical artifact analysis, expert interviews, and market research, the study seeks to





deepen academic understanding of jade carving's internal logic while supporting its contemporary reinterpretation in education, curation, and cultural innovation. This approach not only fills a notable gap in current scholarship but also offers a practical tool for future studies and applications in the field.

Objectives

1. To systematically classify traditional Chinese jade carvings by modeling forms, craftsmanship techniques, and thematic content, constructing a multi-dimensional framework that reveals the artistic richness and internal logic of jade carving traditions.
2. To explore the cultural connotations, symbolic meanings, and aesthetic values embedded in different types of jade carvings, highlighting their role as carriers of historical memory and national spirit.
3. To provide theoretical foundations and practical references for the preservation, innovation, and sustainable development of traditional jade carving art in contemporary society.

Literature review

The study of Chinese jade carving, modeling, and creation has undergone significant development, encompassing both traditional perspectives and contemporary innovations. Early research mainly emphasized traditional aesthetics and craftsmanship. Wen Shaoyu asserted that jade carving is a form of plastic art, focusing on the harmony between material, technique, and form (Chen, 2014). Fang Ze further elaborated that material aesthetics should be prioritized, and that the combination of vivid charm and structural integrity embodies the highest artistic value in jade carving (Fang, 2003). These traditional viewpoints provided a theoretical foundation for understanding the aesthetic principles governing jade works.

In contrast, contemporary scholars have shifted their attention toward innovation and modernization. Yang Ping and Qiu Lizhen analyzed the evolution of jade carving in the "Zigang Cup" exhibitions, emphasizing how modern jade artists integrate traditional techniques with innovative content, contemporary forms, and academic art theories, reflecting a broader and more systematic approach to creation (Dong, 2013). Xu Fei also highlighted that contemporary jade carving, particularly in Suzhou, strives to move beyond traditional heavy symbolism and narrative-driven motifs, focusing instead on pure artistic form and subjective expression (Bu, 2004). This shift echoes the broader transformation in Chinese visual arts, aligning jade carving with modern aesthetic sensibilities.

Meanwhile, international research, particularly by Jessica Rawson, broadened the scholarly perspective by systematically examining the development of Chinese jade from the Neolithic period to the Qing dynasty, linking artifact design with cultural evolution (Rawson, 1995). Her work offered a comparative framework that connects archaeological findings with stylistic and symbolic changes over time.

Although substantial progress has been made, existing research still tends to emphasize either technical description or cultural symbolism separately, with less focus on systematic classification integrating modeling, craftsmanship, and thematic dimensions. Therefore, there remains a clear need for more structured theoretical frameworks to address the complexity and evolving nature of jade carving art. This study aims to contribute by constructing a comprehensive classification system that reflects both historical continuity and contemporary innovation.

Conceptual Framework

This study constructs a conceptual framework based on three core dimensions: modeling classification, craftsmanship classification, and thematic classification of traditional Chinese jade carving. Each dimension reflects different aspects of artistic structure, technical features, and cultural expression. Through the integration of literature review, physical artifact analysis, expert interviews, and market research, this framework supports a comprehensive understanding of the artistic system and cultural significance of jade carving.



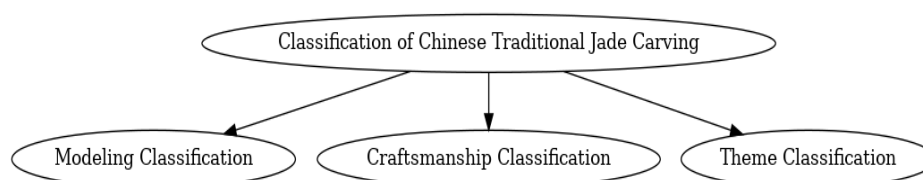


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework
Note: Constructed by the researcher

Methodology

This study adopts a multi-method research approach to ensure a comprehensive and in-depth analysis:

Literature Review: A systematic review of relevant academic works, historical documents, and previous research on jade carving art, modeling, techniques, and thematic development, to establish a theoretical background.

Physical Analysis: Direct observation and examination of jade artifacts in museums, art galleries, and private collections, focusing on modeling features, craftsmanship details, and thematic expressions.

Expert Interviews: Structured interviews with experienced jade carving artists, scholars, and market practitioners to gather insights into the current status, technical practices, and future trends of jade carving.

Market Research: Analysis of the contemporary jade market to collect data on existing jade carving types and classifications, identifying emerging patterns and consumer preferences.

Through the integration of these methods, the study aims to construct a scientifically grounded classification system and contribute to both academic research and the sustainable development of Chinese jade carving art.

Results

1. Modeling Classification of Traditional Chinese Jade Carving

Jade modeling is an important aspect of artistic expression, with different forms reflecting various artistic styles and cultural connotations. Based on morphological characteristics, traditional Chinese jade carving can be divided into four categories: geometric modeling, bionic modeling, abstract modeling, and combinatorial modeling.

Geometric modeling is the most fundamental and traditional form, emphasizing formal beauty through simple shapes. Round jade carvings symbolize completeness, harmony, and eternity, often used in ornaments and ritual vessels, such as the "jade bi" representing cosmic balance (Li, 2015). Square jade carvings convey stability and authority, with "Yugui" exemplifying the dignified temperament of this form (Wang, 2017). Polygonal jade carvings, including hexagons and octagons, are associated with auspicious meanings and require high craftsmanship to achieve symmetry and intricate designs (Chen, 2016).

Bionic modeling captures the vitality of natural life, conveying specific meanings and emotions. Animal motifs like dragons, phoenixes, and qilins symbolize authority, beauty, and auspiciousness, demonstrating the carver's realistic and expressive abilities (Liu, 2018). Plant motifs, such as plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, and chrysanthemums, known as the "Four Gentlemen," express virtues like resilience and elegance through smooth lines and graceful forms. Figure carvings depict historical and mythological characters like Guanyin and the God of Wealth, requiring detailed rendering of facial expressions and body postures to convey spiritual connotations (Zhao, 2019).








Abstract modeling moves beyond figurative representation, focusing on the expression of artistic conception through simplicity. Line-based abstract jade carvings emphasize rhythm and flowing movement, suggesting the power of nature. Block-face carvings use geometric planes to create modern spatial effects with a strong sense of three-dimensionality. Image-based abstraction employs vague forms and soft transitions of color to express inner emotional worlds, emphasizing the viewer's subjective experience.






Combinatorial modeling integrates various elements and materials to create complex artistic expressions. Multi-piece jade works, such as the "Eighteen Arhats" series, combine several independent carvings into a cohesive narrative while maintaining stylistic unity. The combination of jade with materials like gold, silver, wood, or gemstones enhances visual richness and texture, expanding the expressive

possibilities. Additionally, the fusion of jade carving with other crafts such as porcelain, lacquer, or fabric produces unique cultural and artistic effects, requiring mastery of multiple disciplines.

These four modeling types illustrate the diversity and creativity inherent in traditional Chinese jade carving, laying the foundation for understanding its complex artistic system. The detailed characteristics and representative examples are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 Chinese traditional jade carving form

Category	Form	Characteristics and description	Representing works or examples
Geometric modeling class	Round jade carving	The circle symbolizes completeness, harmony, and eternity, and is often used to make ornaments, vessels, and ritual vessels, conveying the aesthetic pursuit of balance and perfection. The traditional "jade bi" represents the cosmic concept of the round sky and the place.	
	Square jade carving	The square symbolizes stability, rules, and justice, often used in seals, paperweights, etc., reflecting the solemn and solemn temperament. "Yugui" means authority and honor.	
	Polygonal jade carving	Polygon modeling is rich in changes, through the combination of polygons to create rich visual effects. Common hexagons and octagons symbolize luck and prosperity. The Nine Palace eight diagrams jade carving means warding off evil and warding off disaster, transporting prosperity, wisdom, and consciousness, harmony and balance, etc.	
Bionic modeling	Animal shape jade carving	The animal images represent different meanings, such as the dragon symbolizing authority, the phoenix representing beauty and auspiciousness, and the kirin symbolizing kindness and auspiciousness. Dragon, phoenix, Qilin, and other animals. Jade Qilin means that in addition to kindness and auspiciousness, it also symbolizes outstanding talents, represents wealth and status, and has the effect of warding off evil and eliminating disasters.	
	Plant shape jade carving	Plant shape conveys natural beauty and cultural connotations, such as plums, orchids, bamboo, and chrysanthemums symbolize noble, delicate, tough, and elegant, emphasizing smooth lines and beautiful shapes.	
	Jade carving of a character shape	It mainly expresses historical and mythological figures, etc., and has profound cultural value and artistry, requiring fine portrayal of the characters' faces, limbs, and costumes.	
Abstract modeling class	Lines of abstract jade carving	Through simple lines, emphasizing rhythm, and rhythm, it gives people unlimited imagination space and expresses the power and beauty of nature.	

Category	Form	Characteristics and description	Representing works or examples
Combinatorial modeling class	Block face abstract jade carving	Through the combination of blocks and surfaces of different sizes, the three-dimensional sense and spatial sense are formed, with a modern sense and creativity.	
	Image abstract jade carving	Starting from subjective emotion, the artistic conception is expressed through abstract form, focusing on the viewer's subjective experience and emotional resonance.	
	Multi-piece combination jade carving	Multiple independent jade carvings are combined into a whole to form a rich scene and story, requiring each part to be unified in style and have its own characteristics.	
	Different material combinations of jade carving	The combination of jade and gold, silver, wood, gems, and other materials enhances the visual effect and texture and enriches the means of expression.	
	Jade carvings combined with other crafts	The combination of jade carving and porcelain, lacquer, fabric, etc., creates cultural integration and unique artistic effects, requiring artists to master a variety of crafts.	

2. Craft Classification of Traditional Chinese Jade Carving

The craftsmanship of jade carving is a critical determinant of the artistic quality and value of the work. Based on production methods and technical characteristics, traditional jade carving techniques can be classified into round carving, relief carving, openwork carving, and other craftsmanship methods.

Round carving is the most common and important technique, where the jade is shaped from all sides into a fully three-dimensional form. Works such as the "jade lion" demonstrate a strong sense of spatiality and lifelike expression, highlighting the artist's deep modeling skills and spatial imagination (Zhou, 2017). The difficulty lies in achieving an overall harmony while utilizing the natural shape of the jade to minimize material waste, reflecting a profound mastery of materials and techniques.

Relief carving involves creating raised patterns on a flat surface, producing designs that bridge two-dimensional and three-dimensional effects. High relief carvings, like the "Nine Dragons Wall," present rich layers and strong depth, while low relief carvings, such as cloud patterns, exhibit subtle elegance through slight elevations (Fang, 2009). Relief techniques not only enhance decorative value but also serve as carriers of historical and cultural symbolism, contributing significantly to the integration of craftsmanship and cultural heritage.








Openwork carving creates hollowed designs, resulting in delicate and translucent visual effects. This technique demands precision and a refined sense of structure, as seen in the "Magnolia Flower" carving, where the intricate hollowing accentuates the softness and dynamism of natural forms. Openwork is widely used in themes such as flowers, birds, and landscapes, enhancing the layering and spatial depth of jade artworks (Zhou, 2007).



Other craftsmanship techniques further enrich the artistic language of jade carving. Intaglio involves carving recessed lines for delicate motifs, such as in poetry-themed jade plaques, while relief carving with raised lines is used to create dynamic decorative motifs, like dragon patterns on pendants. Inlay craftsmanship combines jade with materials like gemstones or metals to create opulent, layered effects, exemplified by gold-inlaid jade works (Deng, 2004). Mosaic craftsmanship joins jade pieces of different

colors and textures, achieving striking visual contrasts and enhancing artistic appeal (Peng, 2018).

Together, these diverse techniques showcase the technical richness and creative vitality of traditional Chinese jade carving, continuously inspiring innovation while preserving the essence of the craft. He detailed classification of techniques is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2 Chinese traditional jade carving craft Category table.

Category	Form	Characteristics and description	Representing works or examples
Round Sculpture Craftsmanship	Three-dimensionality and Expressiveness	Round sculpture possesses a strong sense of three-dimensionality and spatiality, allowing it to vividly depict the form and texture of objects. For example, a "Jade Lion" round sculpture captures the majesty and power of the lion.	
	Technical Challenges and Artistic Value	The difficulty of round sculpture lies in achieving a harmonious overall form while utilizing the natural shape and texture of the jade to minimize material waste. High-level round sculpture reflects a profound understanding of both the material and the craftsmanship, possessing significant artistic and collectible value.	
Relief Craftsmanship	Differences Between High Relief and Low Relief	High Relief: The patterns are highly raised with rich layers and a strong three-dimensional effect. For example, the "Nine Dragons Wall" depicts the grandeur and dynamism of dragons. Low Relief: The patterns are slightly raised, making it suitable for delicate motifs. For instance, "cloud-pattern" jade carvings present a soft and elegant appearance.	 
	Decorative Value and Cultural Heritage	Relief craftsmanship is widely used in the decoration of jade artifacts, architecture, and other objects. It carries rich historical and cultural information, with patterns and motifs conveying specific meanings and symbolism, reflecting the close integration of craftsmanship and culture.	
Openwork Carving Craftsmanship	Ethereal Beauty and Technical Difficulty	Openwork carving achieves a sense of lightness and translucency through hollowing, as seen in the "Magnolia Flower" openwork carving, which showcases the softness of petals. This technique demands exceptional skill, requiring precise control of force and angle, as any slight mistake may damage the piece.	
	Application in Various Themes	Openwork carving is widely used in themes such as flowers and birds, landscapes, and figures. It enhances the sense of layering and spatiality in the artwork. For example, in landscape-themed pieces, openwork carving depicts the depth and spatial hierarchy of distant and near scenery.	

Category	Form	Characteristics and description	Representing works or examples
Other Craftsmanship Techniques	Yin Engraving and Yang Engraving	Yin Engraving: Uses recessed lines to depict delicate patterns and text, such as a "poetry" jade pendant. Yang Engraving: Uses raised lines to create a sense of three-dimensionality and movement, such as a decorative "dragon pattern" jade pendant.	
	Inlay and Splicing in Innovative Applications	Inlay Craftsmanship: Combines jade with gemstones, metals, and other materials to create a luxurious effect, such as "jade inlaid with gold." Splicing Craftsmanship: Joins jade pieces of different colors and textures to form contrasting effects, enhancing artistic appeal.	

3. Classification of Themes in Traditional Chinese Jade Carving

The selection of themes in jade carving significantly influences both the content and expressive impact of artworks, reflecting the aesthetic ideals and spiritual beliefs of different historical periods. Based on thematic content, traditional Chinese jade carving can be categorized into four major groups: historical allusions and mythological legends, religious culture and Buddhist sculptures, auspicious animals and traditional flora and fauna, and landscapes and humanistic scenes.

Themes based on historical allusions and mythological legends convey profound cultural significance and moral ideals. Works such as the depiction of "Yu the Great Taming the Flood" symbolize perseverance and the spirit of public service, emphasizing vivid storytelling and character portrayal. Representative pieces include the "Chang'e Flying to the Moon" jade carving, capturing romantic and mystical elements of mythology, and "The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl," which symbolizes loyalty and the hope for reunion through delicate, graceful lines (Han, 2023).








Religious culture has long been an important source of jade carving themes, expressing faith and reverence through sacred imagery. Buddhist subjects, such as Shakyamuni, Guanyin, and Maitreya, are portrayed with compassion and spiritual tranquility, often featuring intricate carvings and rich decorations. Taoist themes, including images of Laozi and the Eight Immortals, emphasize ethereal aesthetics and reflect Taoist philosophical ideals (Huang, 2021).


Themes featuring auspicious animals and traditional flora and fauna express people's aspirations for fortune, longevity, and moral integrity. The "dragon and phoenix" motif symbolizes nobility and good fortune, while plants such as plum blossoms, orchids, bamboo, and chrysanthemums—the "Four Gentlemen"—represent purity, resilience, and elegance. These works emphasize vividness, intricate detailing, and harmonious composition, demanding the artist's deep understanding of natural forms. For instance, carving a "jade crane" requires precision in posture, feather texture, and expression to convey vitality and grace.

Landscapes and humanistic scenes blend natural beauty with cultural sentiment, creating tranquil and poetic atmospheres. Themes like "Peach Blossom Spring" express an idealized vision of harmony between nature and humanity, featuring layered composition and delicate treatment of space, light, and color. The challenge of this theme lies in representing expansive scenes within the constraints of jade material, requiring mastery of openwork and relief techniques to achieve harmony and profound artistic conception, as seen in "landscape painting" jade carvings.

The detailed categorization of these themes is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3 Table of Traditional Chinese Jade Carving Themes

Category	Form	Characteristics and description	Representing works or examples
Historical Allusions and Mythological Legends	Cultural Connotation and Artistic Expression	Through the retelling of classic stories, cultural connotations and moral lessons are conveyed, such as "Yu the Great Taming the Flood," which exemplifies the spirit of perseverance. The works emphasize vivid storytelling and character development, possessing both aesthetic and educational value.	
	Analysis of Representative Works	"Chang'e Flying to the Moon": Embodies romance and mystery, symbolizing the pursuit of beauty and eternity. "The Cowherd and the Weaver Girl": Depicts a tale of faithful love, symbolizing reunion, with exquisite craftsmanship and graceful lines.	
Religious Culture and Buddhist Sculptures	Sacredness and Symbolism	Religious themes express devout faith and reverence for the divine. For example, jade carvings of Buddha statues convey compassion and wisdom, with solemn and dignified forms and benevolent expressions, offering spiritual solace to viewers.	
	Manifestations of Different Religious Cultures	Buddhist Themes: Include depictions of Shakyamuni, Guanyin, and Maitreya, characterized by intricate carvings and ornate decorations. Taoist Themes: Include representations of Taishang Laojun and the Eight Immortals, with works embodying the mystery and ethereal aura of Taoism.	
Auspicious Animals and Traditional Flora and Fauna	Auspicious Meanings and Stylistic Features	Jade carvings of auspicious animals, flowers, and birds embody aspirations for a beautiful life. For example, the "Dragon and Phoenix" symbolize nobility and good fortune, while the "Plum, Orchid, Bamboo, and Chrysanthemum" represent noble character. These works emphasize vivid forms and intricate detailing, with careful attention to color and line treatment.	
	Craftsmanship Requirements and Artistic Value	Craftsmen are required to possess a keen observational ability of natural forms. For instance, carving a "Jade Crane" demands precise mastery of its posture and texture to convey the piece's liveliness and elegance. Such works hold significant cultural and artistic value.	
Landscape and Humanistic Scenes	The Fusion of Natural Beauty and Humanistic Essence	Landscape themes depict the harmony between nature and human culture. For example, the "Peach Blossom Paradise" theme reflects a longing for an idyllic utopia, emphasizing layered composition, a sense of space, and the delicate handling of color and light to create a poetic atmosphere.	

Category	Form	Characteristics and description	Representing works or examples
	Challenges in Creation and Artistic Charm	Depicting vast landscapes while capturing intricate details poses a significant challenge. For instance, "Landscape Painting" utilizes openwork and relief techniques to showcase mountain and river scenery alongside detailed human figures, achieving a harmonious composition and profound artistic conception. Such works possess strong artistic appeal and high appreciative value.	

Discussion

This study systematically explores the classification of traditional Chinese jade carvings from three aspects: modeling, craftsmanship, and themes. It is innovative in constructing a comprehensive classification system, exploring cultural connotations, and applying multiple research methods. It addresses issues such as the lack of systematic classification and in-depth exploration in previous studies.

Constructing a Comprehensive Classification System: Previous studies often focused on single aspects of jade carvings. For example, Li (2015) studied the symbolism in Chinese jade art, and Wang (2017) concentrated on geometric forms in traditional Chinese art. However, they lacked a comprehensive and systematic classification. This study innovatively classifies traditional Chinese jade carvings from the three dimensions of modeling, craftsmanship, and themes, filling this gap. By dividing modeling into geometric, bionic, abstract, and combined shapes; craftsmanship into round carving, relief, openwork carving, etc.; and themes into historical allusions, religious culture, etc., it constructs a comprehensive classification system. This provides a clear framework for a deeper understanding of the diversity and complexity of jade carving art. This multidimensional classification integrates the scattered research content of previous studies, enabling researchers to have a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of traditional Chinese jade carving art.

Deeply Exploring Cultural Connotations and Artistic Values: Compared with other studies, this research not only focuses on the external forms of jade carvings but also delves deeper into the cultural connotations and artistic values behind them. The research on theme classification elaborates in detail how jade carvings themed with historical allusions and mythological legends convey cultural meanings and moral implications. For example, the "Yu the Great Taming the Flood" theme symbolizes perseverance and the spirit of serving the people (Ma, 2018). It also explores the devout beliefs and spiritual pursuits reflected in religious-themed jade carvings and the aspirations for a better life represented by jade carvings of auspicious animals and traditional flora and fauna. This in-depth exploration of cultural connotations helps people better understand the significance of jade carvings as cultural carriers, while other studies may not explore this aspect as comprehensively and deeply.

Integrating Multiple Research Methods: In terms of research methods, this study comprehensively applies literature research, physical analysis, expert interviews, and market surveys. Different from some studies that only rely on literature research, this study obtains first-hand information by directly observing jade carving works in museums, art galleries, and private collections through physical analysis. It also understands the industry status and development trends through expert interviews and analyzes the types and modeling classifications of jade carvings in the market through market surveys. This combination of multiple methods makes the research results more reliable and persuasive, and can more comprehensively reflect the actual situation of traditional Chinese jade carvings, providing a more solid foundation for the research, inheritance, and development of jade carving art.

Conclusion

This study comprehensively reveals the charm of Chinese traditional jade carving art through systematic classification and in-depth analysis. It has achieved significant results in the classification of modeling, craftsmanship, and themes, and clarifies the development trend of modern jade carving, providing a crucial basis for its inheritance and innovation.

Constructing a Multi-Dimensional Classification System: The research constructs a comprehensive classification system for Chinese traditional jade carvings from three dimensions: modeling, craftsmanship, and themes. In terms of modeling, it is divided into four categories: geometric, bionic, abstract, and combined shapes, clearly defining the characteristics and cultural implications of different models. For example, round jade carvings symbolize completeness and harmony and are often used in the production of ornaments and ritual vessels. In terms of craftsmanship, it is divided into various techniques such as



round carving, relief, and openwork carving, and the technical difficulties and artistic values of each technique are elaborated in detail. For instance, round carving requires engravers to have profound modeling skills and spatial imagination. In terms of themes, it is divided into categories such as historical allusions and mythological legends, religious culture, and Buddha statue carvings, etc., deeply exploring the cultural connotations and artistic values carried by different themes. For example, jade carvings themed with historical allusions convey moral implications and cultural values through the reproduction of classic stories.

Revealing the Connotations and Values of Jade Carving Art: It deeply reveals the rich cultural connotations and unique artistic values of Chinese traditional jade carvings. All kinds of jade carvings not only reflect the Chinese people's pursuit of formal beauty and cultural symbols in modeling, demonstrate superb craftsmanship, but also reflect the aesthetic pursuits, spiritual beliefs, and life aspirations of people in different historical periods in themes. This enables people to understand more comprehensively and deeply the significance of jade carving art as a cultural carrier and its value in inheriting historical culture and expressing national emotions.

Clarifying the Development Trend of Modern Jade Carving: The research finds that modern jade carving, while inheriting traditional techniques, shows strong vitality and broad development prospects through continuous innovation and exploration. Although there are limitations in the current research, it points out the direction for follow-up research, that is, strengthening the research on regional characteristics, deepening market analysis, and expanding international exchanges. This will help promote the innovation of modern jade carving in inheritance, better adapt to the development needs of modern society, and play a greater role in the cultural industry.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, several general recommendations are proposed. First, regional research on jade carving should be strengthened to build a more complete theoretical framework. Second, government support should be enhanced through funding, policies, and training initiatives to protect and promote jade carving art. Third, modern design should be integrated into jade carving to meet contemporary market needs and expand application areas. Fourth, international exchanges should be encouraged to learn from global practices and enhance innovation.

For future research, it is suggested to focus more on the regional characteristics and cultural diversity of jade carving traditions. Interdisciplinary methods combining material science, technology, and art theory could provide new insights into innovation. Studies on market evolution and consumer preferences would help guide industry development. Additionally, research on skill transmission in modern education systems could support the sustainable inheritance of jade carving techniques.

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