

Inspiration of Wabi-sabi Aesthetics for Jewelry Design

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Abstract: With the expanding influence of wabi-sabi culture concept on various cultural fields in our country, there is a growing call for returning to nature to find the heart. More and more designers are learning from nature and drawing design inspiration from nature. We apply wabi-sabi aesthetics to jewelry design, and pass on the feeling of wabi-sabi's simplicity, tranquility and nature to the public through jewelry, or a philosophy of life that complies with nature and simplicity. Wabi-sabi is a deeply multifaceted and elusive culture, which is difficult to simplify into formulas or slogans without being undermined and always feels mysterious and obscure. The spread of wabi-sabi aesthetics has become particularly difficult, and the idea of wabi-sabi often needs to be passed on through the medium of things. Combined with my major of jewelry design, this paper proposes the research question of this subject: what are the symbolic features of wabi-sabi aesthetics? How to apply wabi-sabi aesthetics to jewelry design?.

Keywords: Symbolic features, Naturalness, Imperfection, Power, Procedural, Design inspiration.

1. RELATED THEORIES OF WABI-SABI AESTHETICS

1.1 Research on the concept of wabi-sabi aesthetics

The core idea of wabi-sabi comes from Chinese “Chan”, a Japanese aesthetic that embraces transience and imperfection. A literal interpretation of wabi-sabi, loneliness and despair of the meaning behind it. But to understand from the position of a “Chan” about wabi-sabi, wabi-sabi is not negative, but the interpretation of freeing from numerous and complicated world looking for quiet soul, people can check to feel a deeper meaning of life, has the same effect with the Chinese Taoist "advocate natural, quietism, nothing can not be, laissez-faire, and nature in harmony". From a philosophical point of view, what wabi-sabi aesthetics expresses is a way to return to nature through direct search for essence and pursue the harmony between human heart and the natural world. Leonard Coren [1] use a sentence to sum up its essential spirit: to be reduced to the noumenon, but not to the poetry; Keep things simple, but don't let them go.

1.2 Characteristics of wabi-sabi aesthetics

The characteristics of wabi-sabi aesthetics include asymmetry, rusticity or irregularity, disfigurement, sense of age, roughness, simplicity, humility, doing it without effort, everything as it pleases, familiarity, and the formation of natural change.

2. INSPIRATION OF WABI-SABI AESTHETICS ON JEWELRY IN CRAFTSMANSHIP

2.1 Real natural material

Wabi-sabi aesthetics holds high esteem for elements such as sense of time, imperfection and traces of nature. “Cha” represent the simple and quiet with simple beauty, such as straw, bamboo, log, earth, stone patterns, “Ji” represent the luster of time, the mark left by time on the implement, the luster of human body fat after jade is wearing for a long time[1], and the tea stain left by the tea pot after making tea for a long time are the artistic expression of "Ji" on the implement, all reflecting the passage of time and the vicissitudes of the world. Therefore, products with aesthetic characteristics of wabi-sabi tend to choose natural materials such as logs and stones, with the texture of natural formation. Through the color, texture and texture of the material itself aesthetic factors, to express the creator of rich emotions and natural feelings.

2.2 Refined and unsophisticated styling

In the aspect of modeling, wabi-sabi aesthetics pursues the beauty constructed by random nature, and is used to shape according to the natural prototype of materials, with little use of reproduction or symbolic methods. Although the appearance is simple, it contains the essential features of things themselves, which can stand the carving of time and people's deep deliberation. For example: Japanese artist Mitsuru Koga make the beautiful miniature vases are made by polishing natural pebbles by hand while preserving their natural form. Staying true to who you are, without any distractions, is the point of wabi-sabi aesthetics.

2.3 Plain and simple colors

In the aesthetic consciousness of wabi-sabi, things do not appear too bright on the surface. Often is the quietly elegant color that makes the person feels peaceful and comfortable low saturation, low lightness low purity, this kind of color is usually not lively, not flowery, do not have apparent mood tendency, as if because pass time carve and baptize, give a person the sense of composed and simple.

2.4 Contingency of the creative process

Liu Zongyue, founder of the “Folk Art Movement”, believes that conforming to nature is an important reason to form the beauty of these artifacts. Once the creation is delivered to nature, the activity of creation can get new freedom and generate unexpected beauty. In the process of production, different variations will be generated randomly due to different order of use of materials, different temperatures and different production techniques, which is the embodiment of wabi sabi's "contingency".

3. APPLICATION OF WABI-SABI IN JEWELRY STYLING AND DECORATION

We should not think of "imperfection" in a narrow sense as a mutilated object. It is also a beauty of imperfection that an unduly designed object seeks to retain more of its natural properties.

3.1 Model

Wabi-sabi argued that all things exist with imperfection, and that there is no such thing as absolute perfection and absolute symmetry in nature. Imperfect things have the space of infinite imagination and the room for re-creation. Wabi-sabi advocates that appreciators use the imperfect form of things to fill the imperfect space in their imagination. Therefore, models in wabi-sabi aesthetics tend to be uneven, irregular, incomplete and even incomplete in appearance. The works of French contemporary jewelry designer Anne Luz Castellanos (Figure 1) uses natural materials such as tea bags, dead wood, stone to imitate natural traces, folds, mottle.



Fig 1.

3.2 Decorate

The decoration in jewelry with wabi-sabi aesthetic concept often comes from two aspects. On the one hand, the handmade traces left in the making process. These flawed textures can always surprise people with decorative forms or to meet people's aesthetic needs and spiritual connotation. On the other hand, the decoration comes from the texture of natural materials, which is faithful to the original characteristics of materials, without excessive elaborate decoration, because these texture retain the nature of nature and give people a sense of being unsophisticated and introverted, which adds natural interest to jewelry works. It provides users with more space for imagination. The work of Mexican designer Lorena Lazard (Fig 2) uses rusted and mottled iron as the material to keep the original as much as possible without too much decoration, but it can read the author's understanding of life, existence and death, love and hate, happiness, passion, sorrow, despair and belief[2].



Fig 2

4. THE IMPACT OF WABI-SABI JEWELRY ON PEOPLE

4.1 Jewelry and behavior

Wabi-sabi is natural and common, never making a "I am important" statement, or wanting to be in the limelight, but cannot be ignored. The space environment created by wabi-sabi was isolated and private, which helped the individual to think. It teaches us to face our own heart, to pay attention to our inner feelings, to learn from nature, and to live with restraint and humility. Japanese jewelry artist Reiko Ishiyama's work (Figure 3) uses extremely thin silver pieces to make works with delicate texture to create a natural, simple and plain unique artistic conception[3]. Her work looks fragile. She wants people to really savor the ephemeral beauty when they wear her work. And that's what wabi-sabi aesthetics is trying to teach us.



Fig 3

4.2 Jewelry and Action

In the world of wabi-sabi, where there are no towering skyscrapers, no busy streets, wabi-sabi needs us to calm down to feel life, to be at ease in that moment and to show a natural nature instead of the most perfect[4]. Remove all unnecessary, and the jewelry imbued with wabi-sabi aesthetics will always remind us to appreciate and be grateful, no matter what happens to us, whether it is trivial or hard. Too much pursuit of wealth, status, power and luxurious enjoyment, and want to know how to enjoy no stoned life, in a world of wabi-sabi aesthetics, nothing is valuable, everything means nothing, with a heart of tolerance to treat surroundings, a dynamic view to look at problems, not to measure the value of things with material.

5. CONCLUSION

Man is created by the environment and changes it. When people are in private space, various factors of space will have an impact on their emotions and bodies, and these feelings will be converted into emotions and affect people's psychology. Jewelry works made with natural materials, natural colors and natural techniques are a reminder that we should pay attention to

the beauty of harmony with nature, cherish and cherish natural materials, and arouse people's respect for nature and the nature of things.

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