

Discussion on the Observation Methods of Design Sketching of Environmental Design Major

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Abstract

Observation is the first and necessary condition to recognize all visual arts. In the basic course Design Sketching of environmental design major, teachers and students mostly focus on how to solve the problems of performance techniques and creative thinking, while they often underestimate the importance of the observation method. This paper will discuss the observation methods of Design Sketching of environmental design major from four aspects: I. Use a professional look at things; II. Never forgets why you started, and use childish uncertainty to examine all things; III. Overall observation and local observation; IV. Face observation and long-term observation. The exploration and analysis of the above observation methods make students gain something in the Design Sketching course.

Keywords

Environmental Design Major, Design Sketch, Observation method, Exploration and Analysis.

1. Introduction

As a basic course in the environmental design major, the importance of Design Sketching is self-evident. High buildings rise from the ground. What kind of foundation you lay in the design sketching decides whether what you learn from your professional learning in the future is useful.

As the initial stage of all visual arts, observation is the first and necessary condition. Observation decides result. There is an old saying in art circles: "If you can teach one person how to see things, then this person learns how to paint". Therefore, what you need to learn first is not painting, but how to observe things, which is especially important for teachers and students who only pay attention to the expressive techniques and creative thinking of design sketching. Next, this paper will discuss the observation methods of Design Sketching of environmental design major from four aspects.

2. Discussion on the Observation Methods of Design Sketching of Environmental Design Major

2.1 Use a Professional Look at Things

For the design sketching of environmental design major, we shall use the design thinking of environmental major to observe things. So what is the design thinking of environmental major? It requires a certain modeling ability, ability of aesthetic appreciation of form, mutual conversion ability of between plane and space and between space and space, and more importantly, continuous creativity.

In design sketching, through observation and study, students can refine, summarize, and translate different forms in life into design elements, which can strengthen students' initiative toward morphological language and formal consciousness, so that students can exert their imagination and organically combine basic training with the environmental design major, to help the students feel art, think science, and abstractly and summarily understand and use the concrete forms.

2.2 Never forgets why you started, and use childish uncertainty to examine all things

If we observe things, we can not be prejudiced by first impressions, and we can not give blind conclusion. We shall never forget why we started, and use childish uncertainty to examine and explore new discoveries. Only some uncertainty will gain more possibilities.

For freshmen in environmental design major, their aesthetic ability is limited. They are specious about some basic theoretical knowledge, so their observations inevitably fall into stereotypes, floating on the surface, and the nature can not be got with difficult innovation. Sometimes we hope they are a piece of paper, more conducive to be trained.

In the process of observation, it is very hard to find any new discovery once we fall into some kind of stereotyped and mechanized law. Successful artists can make constantly innovation, which is closely linked to their extraordinary observation ability and the independence of observation. According to the records of Yuefu Zalu (Miscellaneous Notes Regarding the Music Bureau): "Through observation of sword dancing of Aunt Gongsun, Huai Su exceeds the average spectators, grasps the trend of pause and transition in rhythm or melody, and eventually makes great achievements". As the crystallization of ancient wisdom, the eighteen strokes are the various painting techniques used by ancient Chinese person painters to observe the patterns of clothing folds, which are highly summarized and refined. Through deep observation of the natural scenery in the Northern Song capital Bianliang and along the both side banks of Bian River, Zhang Zeduan who is a painter in the Northern Song creates the national treasure masterpiece *Along the River During the Qingming Festival* with great artistic value, historical value and literature value. The painting is 528cm in length and 24.8cm in height with 814 people, over 60 domestic animals, 28 ships, over 30 houses, 20 cars, 8 bridges and over 170 trees. The looks are different and vivid. Qi Baishi, a modern painter and artist, loves life and observes subtle things around him. Each time he finds something new and different in form, it is fascinating. Qi Baishi's works not only show all things in the world, but also show his full of childlike heart and straightforward true nature, which is inseparable from his rich experience. The shrimp painted by Qi Baishi is special with shape and spirit, embodying a high degree of brushstroke skills and representing vividly and remarkably texture and temperament of the shrimp. Qi Baishi can be rejuvenated in art with increasingly flexible, which is inseparable with his childlike heart. In short, childlike uncertainty to a certain extent makes Qi Baishi create the great art. He said: "I am almost eighty years old, but people think that I can only paint shrimp. Wrong!" We can see he is humorous and very lovely! Qi Baishi pursues the art of "unsimilar similarity" in his whole life. Especially, in the last year of his life, the "confused" painting technique is a rare art and the highest level of beyond method!

Art has no national boundaries. Although there are obvious differences between Eastern and Western arts in some aspects, it is consistent with the cultivation of innovative awareness. Because of the different regional culture and national culture, Eastern and Western arts have formed obvious differences in terms of observation. The Western art represented by China pursues scattered perspective observation methods, which is conducive to present the magnificent scene of famous mountains and rivers and other magnificent scenes. It is free and flexible with strong subjective, which cannot be completed for the Western focus perspective. The Western art represented by Europe adopts the observation method of focus perspective, which tends to science category. Once its horizon is fixed, it can not be changed arbitrarily. Things outside sight are not within the scope of observation and expression. Although there are obvious differences between the east and the west in observation and perspective, they are consistent with the vividness and bold innovation of art works. So, what does vividness and innovation rely on to be obtained? The discerning observation is the only way. On the one hand, this is inseparable from the artist's overall accomplishment. On the other hand, the artist observes things (even if they were painted before) with the first impression, as they have never seen before. Maintaining the status quo, the same is your first heart, and the change is everything thing in the world. Picasso, a Spanish painter and sculptor, is the founder of Cubism painting and modern art. He has a legendary life, and his braves to try and innovate. Through research on the painting art of the father of modern art Cezanne and ancient Egyptian art, he boldly created the *Avignon Girls* in 1906-1907, creating the Cubism. Picasso's art is full of childlike, with passionate, free, unrestrained, and high creativity. These artistic achievements can not be separated with Picasso's maintenance of a childlike observation and extraordinary observation. Never forget why we started;

keep a holy creation soil in our hearts; use the first childlike vision to observe things with continuous discovery and innovation.

2.3 Overall observation and local observation

Overall observation and local observation are two ways to observe things. The two sides have differences and similarities, and they are the unity of people's understanding of things. "Seeking to carry it out to its breadth and greatness, so as to omit none of the more exquisite and minute points which it embraces" is the quintessence of The Doctrine of the Mean and is also very appropriate for artistic observation. When observing things, we shall look at the macro as a whole and look at exhaustively local subtlety. The two sides are indispensable. If we look at the whole and neglect the part, it will be simple and empty. If we just look at part and neglect the whole, it will be one-sided, resulting dangerous situation of "cannot see the wood for the trees".

The design sketching of environmental design major can be overall observed and locally observed from both external and internal aspects.

The external form and the internal form of things together constitute the overall form of things. The color, style and texture of the form are to be observed, perceived, grasped and understood by us. External form includes the various components of the external things, namely the three-dimensional top surface, side surface, and bottom surface. The internal form is the appearance of things after they are cut or peeled. The external form and internal form of things are different, and some have huge differences, which surprise people. For example, the fruit pitaya. Its external color is red, and the form is composed of surface. While the interior is white, and the form is composed of dense spots. These characteristics make people be clear at a glance and never forget.

2.4 Face observation and long-term observation

Face observation and long-term observation are important and necessary for full, accurate, and comprehensive observation of things. Face observation is to observe things face to face, which is an effective way to collect the first material, ensuring the authenticity of the observation. Long-term observation is about the observation time, which is systematic observation of things in a certain long or long time. The *Souvenirs Entomologiques* wrote by famous French entomologist Fabre is known as "the insect's epic", which is a literary masterpiece and a scientific encyclopedia. It is absolutely a miracle that a person spends his whole life trying to observe and study the daily habits and characteristics of insects. Huang Gongwang, one of the four members of the Yuan Dynasty, is known as the great master of Chinese landscape painting. His landscape paintings are "mountains are simple and honest; grass and plants are with luxuriant foliage and spreading branches". He spent six to seven years to finish the work *Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains* known as the first masterpiece of landscape painting. The painting is 639.9cm in length and 33cm in height depicting the early autumn scenery in Fuchun River with ink painting techniques. The whole picture is with simple and elegant ink, mixing poetry, books, and paintings together, and its meaning is far-reaching and vast, and the peaks are vigorous with literati painting flavor. Through careful face observation and long-term observation of the early autumn scenery along the Fuchun River, Huang Gongwang finally achieved a masterpiece by applying the ultimate brushstroke skills and emotional expression. When praising this painting, the Qing Dynasty painter Yun Shouping said: "There are several mountains, but each mountain has separate form with hundreds of trees, while each tree has special state with mighty, beauty, boundless and extremely change". Through full, accurate, and comprehensive face observation and long-term observation of things, many painters practice unique skills. It is like the magician or the hand of God which creates very familiar forms, such as the horse of Xu Beihong, the shrimp of Qi Baishi, the donkey of Huang Zhou, the bamboo of Zheng Banqiao and so on. They really reach the combination of objects and subjects, so they have good reputation flowing down for long ages.

3. Conclusion

Exploration and analysis of above various observation methods provides the course Design Sketching of environmental design major with more possibilities, and we hope that the students view the law with applying learning to gain something.

Acknowledgments

Program source: The Research Project Achievements of Chongqing Higher Education Teaching Reform in 2016 (Project Number: 163190); The Research Project of University-Level Education Teaching Reform of Urban Science and Technology School of Chongqing University in 2016: The Achievements of "The Practice Exploration of Interdisciplinary Teaching in Studio of Environment Art Design Major in Current Application-Oriented Colleges and Universities in Chongqing (Project Number: YJ1604)"; The Research Project of University-Level Education Teaching Reform of Urban Science and Technology School of Chongqing University in 2017: The Achievements of "Research on Multidimensional Seamless Teaching Mode of Art Design Foundation and Major Courses" (Project Number: YJ1734).

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