

# A probe into the causes of Shen Zhou's calligraphy's acceptance of Huang Tingjian

Zhuangzhuang Zhang

School of Xi 'an Academy of Fine Arts, Xi 'an 710000, China.

1134633074@qq.com

## Abstract

As a pioneer of calligraphy and painting in the mid-Ming Dynasty, Shen Zhou was a master of poetry, calligraphy, painting, writing, thinking and morality. He is the representative of the culture of the times and the peak of the world of literati painting and calligraphy. What we often pay the most attention to is Shen Zhou's paintings. However, Shen Zhou's attainments in calligraphy and the influence of calligraphy on his painting are somewhat ignored, or the in-depth study is not enough. By studying Shen Zhou's thoughts on Huang Tingjian's acceptance of calligraphy, we can get the influence and significance of Shen Zhou's calligraphy on Huang Tingjian's acceptance.

## Keywords

Shen Zhou, Huang Tingjian, Reason, Calligraphy.

## 1. Introduction

When studying the reasons why Shen Zhou's calligraphy accepted Huang Tingjian, we found that Huang Tingjian's original works collected by our ancestors played an important role in Shen Zhou's calligraphy study. The original Huang Tingjian collected by his ancestors provided Shen Zhou with the convenience of learning, enabling him to study Huang Tingjian's calligraphy skills and artistic style in depth.

## 2. Shen Zhou's family studies and the influence of cultural thoughts.

The original Yellow Valley collected by ancestors provided Shen Zhou with direct learning materials. Under the social background at that time, the spread and inheritance of calligraphy works mainly depended on the collection and inheritance within the family. As a descendant of a calligraphy family, Shen Zhou is fortunate to have direct contact with the original valley hidden by his ancestors. These original works show their unique calligraphy style and skills. By studying these original works, Shen Zhou can directly observe the characteristics of his handwriting, the method of writing and the skills of writing, so as to better understand and absorb the essence of Huang Tingjian's calligraphy art.

To a certain extent, these original works provided Shen Zhou with spiritual encouragement and motivation. As a descendant of a calligraphy family, Shen Zhou has a strong sense of identity with family tradition and family honor. The original Huang Tingjian collected by his ancestors represents the family's glory and tradition, and inspires Shen Zhou to study and inherit the family's calligraphy art hard. He deeply understands that Huang Valley is the pride and representative of the family, and his calligraphy works represent the spiritual inheritance of the family. Therefore, by studying and studying Huang Tingjian's original works, Shen Zhou not only pays tribute to Huang Tingjian, but also continues the family tradition.

In a word, the original valley hidden by ancestors provided Shen Zhou with valuable learning resources. Through the research and study of these original works, Shen Zhou can better

understand and absorb the essence of Huang Tingjian's calligraphy art, and at the same time get spiritual encouragement and motivation. All these have played an important role in the formation of Shen Zhou's calligraphy's acceptance of Huang Tingjian.

### **2.1. Huang Tingjian's individual book style caters to the trend.**

Huang Yuzhang is a famous calligrapher in the history of China, and his individual calligraphy style was deeply influenced by the trend of that time. In the early Ming Dynasty, China society was undergoing a transformation from a feudal society to a commercial economic society, which also had a far-reaching impact on culture and art. Huang Tingjian's individual style of calligraphy just caters to this trend, so it has been widely recognized and respected.

Valley's individual calligraphy style is mainly manifested in his innovation and breakthrough in traditional calligraphy. He did not stick to the traditional norms and constraints, but boldly created freely and brought forth the new. He emphasizes expressing calligraphy works with personal feelings and artistic conception, and pursues natural, casual and frank artistic effects. This personalized style of writing was in line with the social atmosphere at that time, because the commercial society emphasized the free development and independent thinking of individuals, and resisted the shackles of traditional rules. Huang Tingjian's individual calligraphy style just catered to this trend of thought and became a cultural expression of the society at that time.

In addition, his individual style of calligraphy has been highly praised and influenced by Song Lian and other cultural celebrities. Song Lian was a cultural celebrity in the early Ming Dynasty. He greatly appreciated Huang Tingjian's innovative spirit, and once praised Huang Tingjian's calligraphy "Su Huang Shang Yi". This kind of praise made Huang Tingjian's individual calligraphy style get greater recognition and promotion, which further catered to the social trend at that time.

In a word, Huang Tingjian's personalized calligraphy style catered to the trend of the society at that time, and his innovation injected new vitality and inspiration into traditional calligraphy. His individual calligraphy style was widely recognized and respected in the early Ming Dynasty, and it became an expression of social culture at that time. Huang Tingjian's calligraphy art is not only his personal creation, but also the product of social ideological trend and cultural atmosphere at that time.

### **2.2. Demand for visual decoration in commodity economy.**

In the study of Shen Zhou and Huang Tingjian's calligraphy acceptance, Shen Zhou's calligraphy acceptance of Huang Tingjian was influenced by the demand for visual decoration under the commodity economy. In the Ming Dynasty, due to the economic development and social progress, people's demand for works of art and visual decoration gradually increased. Especially in the literati group, calligraphy and painting have become an important status symbol and social etiquette. Therefore, the demand for calligraphy works has also increased.

As an outstanding painter and calligrapher, Shen Zhou's calligraphy works are favored because of his unique artistic style and personality charm. His calligraphy works not only have artistic ornamental value, but also have certain collection value. This makes Shen Zhou's calligraphy works become a hot commodity, which has been widely concerned and sought after by the society.

As an outstanding literati calligrapher, Huang Valley also showed a strong interest and acceptance attitude towards Shen Zhou's calligraphy. Huang Tingjian was deeply influenced by the Song people's "Su Huang Shang Yi" in his calligraphy, and Shen Zhou's calligraphy just conforms to the expression of this spirit of Shang Yi. Therefore, Huang Tingjian took great interest in Shen Zhou's calligraphy and drew inspiration from it.

At the same time, the development of commodity economy has facilitated the exchange of calligraphy between Shen Zhou and Huang Tingjian. With the development of commodity economy, the exchange and circulation of calligraphy and painting works become more convenient, which makes it possible for Shen Zhou and Huang Tingjian to appreciate and learn from each other's calligraphy. Huang Tingjian can conduct research and study by collecting or purchasing Shen Zhou's calligraphy works, from which he can draw nutrition and apply it.

Therefore, the demand for visual decoration in commodity economy has played a positive role in promoting the exchange and acceptance of calligraphy between Shen Zhou and Huang Tingjian. Shen Zhou's calligraphy works are highly sought after because of its unique artistic style and personality charm, and Huang Tingjian was influenced by this style and integrated it into his own calligraphy creation. This exchange and acceptance not only promoted the development of calligraphy art, but also provided valuable opportunities for later calligraphers to learn from.

### **2.3. The change of the attitude of the royal family**

In the early Ming Dynasty, the royal family's attitude towards culture and art was always conservative, and calligraphy art was no exception. However, with the passage of time, the attitude of the royal family gradually changed, and the acceptance of calligraphy art also increased.

The change of the royal family's attitude is related to the social changes in the Ming Dynasty. In the early Ming dynasty, due to the centralization and unification of political power, the royal family gradually strengthened its control over culture and art. However, with the development of the times, there are more cultural elites and intellectuals in the society, and their pursuit and innovation of calligraphy art has aroused the interest of the royal family. The royal family began to realize that calligraphy art is not only a cultural tradition, but also a way of artistic expression and personality display.

This attitude change is also related to the personal preferences of the Ming emperors. The Ming emperors attached importance to the development of culture and art, especially to calligraphy. For example, Ming Taizu Zhu Di appreciated Huang Tingjian's calligraphy very much and praised his talent and artistic achievements many times. This kind of emperor's attention and admiration for the art of calligraphy undoubtedly played a positive role in promoting the attitude change of the royal family.

This attitude change is also related to the change of social ideological trend to some extent. In the mid-Ming Dynasty, there was a trend of personality in the society, pursuing freedom, independence and innovation. This trend of thought has played a positive role in promoting the development of calligraphy art, and also influenced the attitude of the royal family. The royal family began to realize that the traditional calligraphy art needs new blood and innovative spirit to promote its development, and they began to accept calligraphy works of different styles and schools more openly.

To sum up, the attitude of the royal family in the early Ming Dynasty was conservative for the art of calligraphy, but with the changes of the times and social thoughts, the attitude of the royal family gradually changed. The rise of personality trend of thought, the admiration of Ming emperors and the influence of social changes all promoted the royal family to accept calligraphy art to some extent. This has played a positive role in promoting the development and inheritance of calligraphy art.

## **3. Shen Zhou and Huang Tingjian's understanding of spiritual realm.**

As a famous painter and calligrapher in Ming Dynasty, Shen Zhou had a profound personality recognition for Huang Tingjian's trip to be a filial friend. Filial piety is an important value in

China traditional culture, which emphasizes filial piety to parents and sincere friendship to friends. In his calligraphy works, Shen Zhou often shows his recognition and admiration for this value.

In Shen Zhou's calligraphy, we can see his praise and admiration for filial piety. By writing some poems about filial piety, he integrated the spirit of filial piety into calligraphy. For example, he wrote the words "filial piety and friendship" in a work, expressing his recognition and admiration for the trip to filial piety. A kind and warm atmosphere can often be felt in his calligraphy works, which is the embodiment of his personality recognition of his trip to filial piety.

In addition, Shen Zhou also expressed his recognition of friendship to Huang Tingjian's big heart. Huang Tingjian is a very talented scholar, who has made outstanding achievements in literature and calligraphy. Shen Zhou expressed his appreciation for Huang Tingjian's great mind and attitude towards life, and paid tribute to him through his calligraphy works. He wrote the words "heroic spirit and heroic spirit" in a work, expressing his admiration for Huang Tingjian's lofty aspirations and lofty sentiments.

Generally speaking, Shen Zhou's personality recognition of filial piety in his calligraphy is obvious. By writing poems and praising Huang Tingjian's big heart, he integrated the way of filial piety into calligraphy, showing his recognition and admiration for this value. This not only embodies his personal pursuit of personality, but also conveys the importance of filial piety in China traditional culture.

Shen Zhou's emphasis on Huang Tingjian's big heart is one of the important reasons why he accepted Huang Tingjian's calligraphy. Huang Tingjian was a famous scholar and calligrapher in the Northern Song Dynasty. He was famous for his noble character and lofty aspirations. With his unique viewpoint and artistic pursuit, Shen Zhou was deeply influenced by Huang Tingjian, and integrated his great-minded spirit into his calligraphy creation.

Shen Zhou's lofty moral enlightenment was given by the great mind in the valley. Huang Tingjian emphasized the benevolence and moral cultivation of Confucianism in his poems. He advocated loyalty, integrity, humility and tolerance, and attached great importance to friendship and family relations. This noble character had a far-reaching impact on Shen Zhou, and inspired him to explore and pursue human nature.

This kind of mind is also in line with Shen Zhou's artistic pursuit. Shen Zhou pursues the literati spirit of painting with books, and combines calligraphy with painting to express his feelings and thoughts. Huang Tingjian's calligraphy style is deeply influenced by Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. He pays attention to the expression of artistic conception and pursues the unity of pen and ink and mood. Shen Zhou appreciated and accepted the spiritual realm of Huang Tingjian's calligraphy, and integrated it into his own calligraphy creation, which made his works more full of connotation and emotion.

Another factor is also consistent with Shen Zhou's own outlook on life and values. Shen Zhou advocates the harmony and unity of nature and humanity, and pays attention to individual emotional expression and inner peace. Huang Tingjian deeply attracted Shen Zhou with his uninhibited personality and sincere attitude towards life. He believes that Huang Tingjian's big mind is a pursuit of human truth and a free lifestyle, which is also in line with his own pursuit of life.

To sum up, Shen Zhou's emphasis on Huang Tingjian's big heart reflects his recognition of noble character and the pursuit of sincere life. Huang Tingjian's broad mind has given Shen Zhou moral enlightenment, which is in line with his artistic pursuit and his own outlook on life and values. Therefore, Shen Zhou integrated Huang Tingjian's spirit into his calligraphy creation, making his works richer and deeper. This also provides important clues and perspectives for us to know and understand the calligraphy art of Shen Zhou and Huang Tingjian.

Shen Zhou's idea of painting with calligraphy is an innovative expression in his calligraphy art, and it is also one of his acceptances of Huang Tingjian's calligraphy. Shen Zhou is well aware of the close relationship between calligraphy and painting. He thinks that calligraphy is the foundation of painting, and expressing emotion and artistic conception through calligraphy can make painting more vivid and powerful. Therefore, Shen Zhou often uses the skills and styles of calligraphy in his paintings, using books to make his works more diverse.

On the one hand, the formation of this concept stems from his love and pursuit of calligraphy. Shen Zhou is an outstanding calligrapher, and his research and innovation on calligraphy art are consistent. He deeply studied the calligraphy works of ancient famous artists, absorbed their essence, and integrated his own personality and style. Through continuous exploration and practice, Shen Zhou gradually formed his own unique calligraphy style, which was fully displayed in his paintings.

On the other hand, Shen Zhou's idea of painting with books is also because he realized the internal relationship between calligraphy and painting. In Shen Zhou's view, calligraphy and painting are both expressions of art, and they both need to convey emotions and artistic conception through the use of pen and ink. By applying the skills and styles of calligraphy to painting, the works can express the author's feelings and thoughts more powerfully.

#### 4. Conclusion

The application of this concept not only has an important influence on Huang Tingjian's calligraphy acceptance, but also has a far-reaching influence on the art of calligraphy and painting in later generations. Shen Zhou's innovative expression provided new ideas and inspirations for later artists of calligraphy and painting. His works are not only unique in art, but also play an important role in cultural inheritance and artistic exchange.

In a word, the application of Shen Zhou's idea of painting with books is not only his innovative exploration of calligraphy art, but also his acceptance of Huang Tingjian's calligraphy. The formation and application of this concept not only enriched Shen Zhou's artistic creation and expression, but also provided new ideas and enlightenment for the development of calligraphy and painting art in later generations.

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