

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.36059/978-966-397-508-5-84>

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IMPACT THE YANGZHOU SCHOOL OF PAINTING TRADITIONS ON MODERN CHINESE FINE ARTS

The influence of the creativity and innovative spirit of the Yangzhou School of Painting (8-19 centuries a.d.) on later development of Chinese fine arts is evident. The painters of the Yangzhou School of painting were eclectic and innovative, combining traditional Chinese painting techniques with Western painting techniques to create a painting style with the characteristics of the times and regional characteristics. This creativity and innovative spirit are not only an important manifestation of traditional Chinese culture, but also an important force in promoting the development of the Chinese painting world. Therefore, the creativity and innovative spirit of the Yangzhou School of Painting will continue to be passed down and will have a profound impact on the Chinese painting world. They inspired the Chinese painting world with a fresh and energetic attitude. The spirit and style of the Yangzhou School of Painting directly influenced many schools such as the Shanghai School of Painting and the Lingnan School of Painting. Famous painters include Zhao Zhiqian (1829-1884), Ren Bonian (1840-1895), Wu Changshuo (1844-1927) and the modern Qi Baishi (1864-1957) created their own unique styles under the influence of the Yangzhou School of Painting. And some modern painters were infected by Yangzhou spirit, such as: Lin Fengmian (1900-1991), Wu Guanzhong (1919-2010), and Zhao Wuji (1921-2013).

After the birth of the Yangzhou School of Painting, “weirdness” became a new aesthetic term, referring to an artistic style and aesthetic taste that did not follow established rules. In calligraphy, painting and poetry, it often refers to a unique style that breaks through established methods, gives free play, and vividly expresses personality. “Weirdness” is different. From the perspective of life behavior, the “Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou” did not go beyond the scope of ethics and education at that time, and did not deliberately act stupid. The reason why they were regarded as “strange” by the world was mainly because their works broke through tradition, were not bound by conventions, and had distinctive personality in terms of techniques, themes, and ideas, which were refreshing at the time.

The painters of the Yangzhou School “specialize in freehand brushwork and pay attention to spiritual resemblance.” Whether it is Jin Nong’s plum blossoms, Zheng Xie’s bamboos, or Li Shan’s flowers, they all use “weird” techniques and have a “weird” spirit. This led to the fact that after the Eight Eccentrics of

Yangzhou, many painters were influenced by the Yangzhou School of Painting to look for this unique and distinctive personality and “weirdness”. However, with the process of history, today’s social form and cultural environment have already undergone tremendous changes compared with the era when the “Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou” lived. In just 100 years, China has gone through the Opium War, the overthrow of the imperial system, the Second World War, the establishment of a new political power, the people’s commune movement, and the Cultural Revolution ...Discussing the contemporary significance of the artistic spirit of the Yangzhou School in today’s cultural context aims to draw lessons from the past and view the present, raise questions about contemporary Chinese painting creation, and make choices in the collision of Eastern and Western, traditional and modern forces, in an effort to find a development path that is more in line with the laws.