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A SCULPTURE PORTRAIT IN THE CREATIVITY OF WU WEISHAN

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Sculptural portraiture is one of the most complex and open forms of artistic expression, which requires from the artist not only technical skill, but also deep psychological penetration. In the context of contemporary Chinese sculpture, Wu Weishan is a key figure whose work combines traditional Eastern aesthetic philosophy with modern sculptural techniques. The artist's unique ability to convey both the physical similarity and the spiritual essence of the models reveals the concept of "spiritual resonance" in three-dimensional space. The central place in the master's work is occupied by the genre of portraiture, in which oriental aesthetic principles are synthesized with modern sculptural practices. The artist's sculptural portraits are a significant achievement in this field, thanks to the innovative integration of material expression, psychological penetration, and cultural synthesis. Analysis of his most famous portrait sculptures, including his famous series of historical figures and contemporary intellectuals, reveals compelling biographical narratives in bronze and clay. Wu Weishan chooses bronze to create portraits, as this material allows to convey the deep psychologism and inner world of the characters. Bronze gives his works monumentality, emphasizing the national spirit and cultural heritage. Patination of bronze allows to achieve a variety of shades, adding expressiveness, depth and solemnity to the works. In his unique style of "freehand sculpture" inspired by traditional Chinese calligraphy and painting, Wu Weishan creates vivid imagery that resonates with the rest of the world and connects East and West. His work *Dialogue Through Time*, depicting Leonardo da Vinci and Qi Baishi, symbolizes the cultural and artistic exchange between China and Italy. Wu Weishan's portrait sculpture plays an important role in the development of contemporary Chinese art, combining traditional artistic principles with innovative sculptural practices. His work demonstrates a deep understanding of the human personality and the ability to convey the spiritual essence of a model through material form.