

# Exploration on Modern Body Painting by Using Ancient Makeup Methods

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## Abstract

First of all, from the development and definition of contemporary human body painting, this article expounds the application scope and development of human body painting so far. Body painting is a new manifestation of the close combination of traditional makeup and art painting. In this integration, it should find its own application scope and future development prospects. According to the analysis of ancient makeup characteristics, we can contact today's human body painting, find the similarities between them, and carry out research.

## Keywords

Ancient Makeup; Body Painting; Painting Development.

## 1. Introduction

Makeup, as a beauty method, has existed since ancient times. The Book of Rites has a description of "injecting face with Dan", which shows that some people painted red pigment on their faces as rouge powder at that time; The viewpoint that "there are red makeup and green eyebrows in the Palace of the First Emperor" in "The Source of Things" just shows that in the Qin Dynasty, everyone already painted eyebrows and painted their faces to make up. Ancient makeup methods such as flower bud, mouth fat, powder application, forehead yellow and makeup. It didn't fade away with the beauty of the past, but it was slowly improved by everyone in the changes of the times, and then it was widely passed down.

As a new form of cultural expression, contemporary human body painting is slowly accepted and recognized by everyone. People who can speak, make decisions and think are integrated into art. According to the views and ideas of artists themselves, mannequins are made into different pictures, some of which are vivid, some of which are abstract and obscure, or animals and plants of nature, or sad and happy portraits with unique characteristics.

## 2. The Characteristics of Ancient Makeup

Ancient makeup can be divided into: flower bud, mouth fat, powder application, forehead yellow, makeup and so on.

Flower bud: This kind of makeup also has aliases: flower seeds, face flowers and decals. Flower bud is an ornament on the faces of ancient women. Flower bud began in Tang Dynasty and was also the most popular in Tang and Song Dynasties. In the Tang Dynasty, both concubines in the palace and Mrs. Houmen were used to decorating their faces with decal paper on their eyebrows or faces.

There are many raw materials of flower bud, and many things can be used. Some flower buds are cut with gold foil paper, some with paper and some with fish scales. Interestingly, some clever people actually use dragonfly wings to make flower buds. As Tao Gu's book "Yi Yi Lu" in the Song Dynasty said: "After the Tang Dynasty, the imperial people or the net got dragonflies and loved them to be green and thin, so they painted their wings with gold pens and made small folded branches and flowers." It can be seen that the ancient women's makeup method is

unique. Red, yellow and green are the main colors of flower buds. Flowers with different colors and styles are matched with different makeup, which can give people different aesthetic evaluations.

**Mouth fat:** Also known as "lip fat" in ancient times. In ancient times, oral fat was mostly scarlet, that is, red. The mouth fat of ancient women can greatly add points to the overall makeup. Therefore, oral fat has always been the favorite item of ancient women [1].

After the first year of Tang Dynasty, influenced by Tubo clothing and makeup, women in Tang Dynasty often painted "crying makeup" and "tear makeup", which made makeup look like crying. In fact, this kind of makeup was not good-looking. Not only did it not have too much artistic beauty, but it also gave people a strange feeling, so it was changed soon. It's only popular for a while and then it's out of fashion.

In the Tang Dynasty, besides cinnabar red, sandalwood was also popular as mouth fat, and sandalwood was light crimson. Qin Guan, a poet of the Northern Song Dynasty, mentioned in "Nan Ge Zi Xiang Mo": "Rubbing the apricot yellow skirt of the blue shirt, leaning on the jade bar alone, and having no words." The color tone of this fat is very beautiful. Whether it is cinnabar red or sandalwood, you can choose the appropriate color tone to match according to everyone's face shape and characteristics.

**Powder application:** At that time, it was the most common and simple method for ancient women to rub powder on their faces. Makeup powder made ancient women's faces neat, so it was deeply loved by ancient women at that time.

**Forehead yellow:** Also known as "crow yellow", "stick yellow" and "flower yellow", it is a light yellow pattern painted in the middle of forehead. Ehuang began in the Southern and Northern Dynasties and gradually became popular until the Tang Dynasty. During the Northern and Southern Dynasties, women were inspired by the gold paint on Buddha statues, and gradually put a light yellow on their foreheads when making up, which became a custom over time. In ancient times, many poets wrote poems about this custom. For example, Li Shangyin also wrote that "Princess Shouyang made up when she married, and the eyebrows of the eight-character palace held yellow forehead" all reflected the popularity of yellow forehead at that time.

**Makeup:** Makeup is used to draw eyebrows. Makeup began in the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period. At first, women lit wicker and painted it on their eyebrows, which became the first way to draw eyebrows. Later, we saw that Dai can also be used to draw eyebrows, so Dai was used instead of wicker. Women in Han Dynasty made thrush from Stone, and stone Dai is a gray-black mineral. Before using women's thrush, it is necessary to grind it into powder on inkstone, and then mix it with appropriate water, so it can be used. Then there appeared Luozi Dai, Qingque Head Dai and Tongdai, which were mostly emerald, dark gray and dark green.

Although there is a river between ancient makeup and contemporary body painting, makeup has not been engulfed, but has stimulated more prominent effects in the evolution of time periods. They have created resource advantages for everyone to pursue the beauty of their dreams and created a visual feast for everyone.

### 3. The Development of Ancient Makeup

In the historical evolution of ancient makeup, we can't ignore that the descriptions of body shape and appearance, such as My Fair Lady and Beautiful Woman, heavy makeup and light makeup have left valuable materials for everyone, so that everyone can have a certain grasp of ancient makeup. China's long history of 5,000 years has not only created a group of scholars, but also created a group of achievements on beauty. From the development of ancient makeup, it is in China's economic development, from the germination of beauty to the transformation of contemporary human body painting [2].

In *Mulan*, the phrase "when the window manages the clouds, the mirror decals yellow" mainly shows the characteristics of ancient makeup. The poem tells that *Mulan* tidied up her makeup in front of the window after recovering her daughter, and did not forget to put yellow decorations on the mirror. In ancient times, yellow makeup refers to the dress of a young girl who has not got married, so there is a folk title of "Yellow Flower Girl", which has spread to modern times; Rouge plays an important role in ancient makeup. Today, powder is still an essential commodity for people to pursue perfection and enjoy beauty. Rouge powder is a common cosmetic for ancient women. There are two kinds, one is made of silk cotton dipped in red and blue flower juice, and the other is called "Yanzhi", which is produced and processed into tiny flower pieces, also known as "Jinhua Yanzhi". Both kinds of rouge powder can be dried and wiped with a little water. Rouge powder usually melts on both sides of cheeks, so cheeks are often bright red. In theory, rouge also contains oral fat in ancient times, that is, lipstick used in people's life today.

However, not everyone has the beauty of falling fish and geese. Most women only use human makeup to increase their elegance, and then get the goodwill of friends of the opposite sex, and they also get a certain degree of psychological satisfaction in the process of makeup. Although different generations have different standards for the beauty of appearance, with the development of society and our exploration of makeup and beauty, beauty has gradually improved from form to specific content. Therefore, in the rules of historical changes in ancient makeup, the so-called beauty standard is also changing with the changes of the times.

#### **4. The Application of Modern Painting**

Now is the time to establish individuality and trend, especially the modern trendy people, in order to better attract more people's eyes, have been expecting their own image to be unconventional. Modern body painting can provide a unique space to show. According to its own characteristics, the design scheme conforms to its own characteristics of pattern design, painted on the human body, will make the overall image more personalized and charming.

Modern body painting has a broad space for expression, but body painting is definitely not just artistic graffiti, it needs a complete idea of art painting. Body painting is the plastic art of the soul, which will not be limited by the original way. It reflects the inner true feelings of painters and provides us with inspiration, imagination and experience of beauty. The bold use of body painting colors, its self-expression and personality have also touched many young people who pursue perfect trends and beauty. Red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple all form a beautiful and fashionable painting axis on the body, and devote themselves to plastic arts, which are not only reflected in words, but also vividly presented in the way of human body painting in the transformation and development of society.

#### **5. The Connection between Ancient Makeup and Contemporary Human Body Painting**

Art has always come from daily life and is higher than daily life. Whether in ancient times, or contemporary human body painting, all of them follow the footsteps of beauty in the constant exploration and pursuit of perfection, and make continuous progress and change. From ancient times to the present, everyone has never stopped pursuing perfection in beauty. From the ancient makeup color to the present body painting, they have always been closely related.

From the comparison and connection between ancient women's makeup methods and color characteristics and today's fashionable body painting, we can know that ancient makeup pigment pastes such as lemon yellow, thrush ink, forehead yellow and mouth fat have not been abandoned, but have been more widely used in body painting. Although the period is constantly

changing, this long-standing makeup color has not been lost by everyone, but has been developed in many industries, which also represents the development of the new era and the continuous progress of human development [3].

## 6. Concluding Remarks

China is a country with a long history, which has a vital leading position and influence in history, humanities and the whole world. From a closed traditional Chinese nation to being in line with the world, both humanities and art have made good progress. In the past, everyone used pens to write on rice paper. Nowadays, we can achieve achievements at the level of human body painting. Beauty is everywhere, art is everywhere!

## References

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