

Exploring the Cultural Connotations of Urban Public Art in Ningbo

Jiamiao Wei^{1,a}, Xiaohua Huang^{1,2,b,*}

¹*School of Design, Ningbo Tech University, Ningbo 315100, Zhejiang, China*

²*Faculty of innovation and design, City University of Macau, Macau 999078, China*

^a*1609214985@qq.com*, ^b*hxhzdnblgxy@163.com*

**corresponding author*

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Abstract: As the process of urbanisation continues to accelerate, the status of urban culture in public space is gradually increasing. This paper explores the cultural connotations in public art by discussing two aspects of public art and urban culture, public art as open public and humanistic urban culture, allowing urban culture to be better integrated into the urban public environment. This paper selects public art in Ningbo as an entry point to analyse the urban culture contained in public art, and in the form of a questionnaire survey on the current situation of cultural construction and public art development in Ningbo, to understand the connotations of Ningbo urban culture in public art, in the hope that it can give more urban culture to public art in Ningbo's urban construction and improve the quality of public art in Ningbo.

1. Introduction

Ningbo is a city that thrives on its port and relies on the development of its port economy. While the economy is developing rapidly, the cultural beauty of the city is being created, making the city's construction more towards high-quality development. The city's emphasis on cultural development can be seen in a number of ways, such as the promotion of the city's cultural image and the construction of public art with a cultural connotation of the city.

This paper analyses the inheritance and development of public art and urban culture by sorting out and analysing the cultural connotations of the construction of public art in Ningbo city as a theoretical basis, analysing the creation of public art on the urban cultural environment in terms of

cohesive culture, historical memory and humanistic care, followed by a questionnaire survey to study the current situation of the construction of urban culture and the development of public art in Ningbo, exploring the relationship between public art design and urban The development mechanism between history and culture in Ningbo summarises the public's evaluation, increases the public's concern for the development of public art and urban culture, and draws conclusions about the role and significance of public art in the development of urban cultural connotations.

2. The Relationship between Public Art and the City

Public art and urban development are closely linked and mutually reinforcing, and the speed of a city's development can be seen in the local public art; in other words, public art is also a 'reflection' of urban development. The development of cities is driven by the people, and public art is no exception, as it continues to develop with the public in mind and is closely linked to the lives of people. With the growing economic and technological development of cities, people are looking for cultural and emotional repositories for their cities, in addition to food, clothing and housing. [1]

2.1. The Concept of Public Art

Public art, as one of the broadest art designs, reaches from the visual communication of a plane to the overall construction of a space, using different types of materials to create different types of artworks, while giving it emotion and theme, allowing public art to play its own role in urban public spaces.

Spatially speaking, it is a work of art that is in an open space and exists in a public way. The existence of public art follows the trajectory of people's lives in the city, and the resulting public area is variable and indeterminate, meaning that all artworks can be called public art as long as they meet the prerequisites of existing in a public way.

In terms of time, public art is an emerging discipline in recent years, and its entire development process is closely related to historical and cultural changes. As cities continue to develop, people's knowledge of public art becomes richer and richer, and public art is recognised by the public, which ultimately allows public art to serve people, improve the quality of life and add cultural cohesion to cities. [2]

2.2. Inheritance and Development of Urban Culture

The development of urban culture is inseparable from the public, and the use of a medium to disseminate urban culture can make it more special and meaningful. For culture to exist in the long term, it is necessary for people to be innovative about it and to pass on the excellent urban culture that has come before it, and to protect the historical and cultural resources of the city. Public art can be used as a vehicle for dissemination and succession, recording the history of the city at a certain time. Culture as the inner soul of a city, and each city has a symbol that represents its own urban culture, can be used to enhance the city's image and promote its long-term stable development with its own unique urban culture.

2.3. Publicity and Culture in Urban Public Art

The most basic condition for public art is to be in a public space. By fully absorbing the cultural connotations of the city, the public art built can be well integrated into the natural environment, it can involve people through public communication and meet the needs of urban people's lives, thus achieving communication and resonance between people and the city. The construction of public art

maps the state of urban civilisation and is a vehicle for sustainable cultural development, from which the state of urban culture can be seen in the short term; in the long term it can become a record of the city's historical and cultural imprint. [3]

3. Public Art's Contribution to the Creation of Ningbo's Urban Cultural Environment

Public art is a link between inherited art aesthetics and urban cultural development, from its rise to the present, more and more integrated into urban construction, mainly from the city's cultural style, humanistic spirit, historical memory and other aspects of the composition, it as an aesthetic and environmental fusion, deep into the hearts of the public, become a cultural phenomenon that can not be ignored in the process of urban construction. The creation of an urban cultural environment needs to be in line with the trend of the times, and public art reflects the cultural development of the city in the development of the art world, creating a good cultural atmosphere, giving the city cultural publicity while allowing the public to subconsciously integrate into the city culture.[4]

3.1. It has the Function of Unifying and Sublimating the City's Culture

Each city will have public art that represents its own urban characteristics, and some cities may have public art that is a unique historical mark and icon of the city. Public art has gradually become an important part of urban culture with the development of the times and the progress of people's thinking. [5] It takes urban culture as a source of creation, and on this basis it delves deeper, bringing together the lives and emotions of people in the city, giving emotional meaning to public art, and seeing in these artworks a realistic portrayal of people's urban lives.

Public art distils the excellent culture of the city and brings more beautiful cultural enjoyment to urban people with openness and publicness, culture and art. Combining public art with urban park construction and garden planning makes an important contribution to the creation of an urban cultural environment and increases the cultural atmosphere of the city. For example, the "Angel Grandmother" in the Love Park in Haishu District, Ningbo(Figure 1)is the first person in Ningbo who signed a contract to donate both her organs and corneas before she was born. The grandmother sits in the middle with a kind smile on her face, the rescued children nestled beside her, gazing joyfully at the colourful world, the picture is full of warmth and hope. The image is full of warmth and hope. With her selfless love, the grandmother extends the lives of others and brings them back to the world of light, echoing the theme of "love" in the park. It is a tribute to the spirit of selflessness and dedication of the Angel Grandmother, and to the civilian heroes who have emerged from the civilised city of Ningbo. It is a new interpretation of the Haishu Love Park and the spreading of love in Ningbo.



Figure 1. 'Angel Grandmother'

3.2. It has the Role of Carrying the City's Historical Memory

As cities continue to develop rapidly, people's lifestyles have changed and new things have emerged, making some urban culture representing historical features gradually replaced, but a city needs to have a cultural connotation, and previously built public art of different time periods has been standing in the city through the wear and tear of time, so that the unique infectious power exuded through public recognition, has been integrated into people's urban life. It has become a marker of the city's historical memory.[6]

The public artwork in Ningbo Jiangxia Park. The Monument to Support the Army (Fig. 2) represents a unique memory of Ningbo's urban history, Jiangxia Street used to be an important landmark in Ningbo's old city, with four distinctive streets - Shuang Street, Half Street, Qianxing Street and Sugar Street - becoming the most prosperous and prime area at the time. However, on the eve of the liberation of Ningbo, on 20 September 1949, the whole street was bombed indiscriminately by Nationalist planes, leaving the street in ruins. In 1987, the Ningbo government funded the construction of Jiangxia Park, and the Monument to the Support of the Troops was a public artwork built to commemorate the soldiers of that time, and for the public today, seeing this work is like imagining the prosperous scene of Jiangxia Street at that time.



Figure 2. 'Army Support Monument'

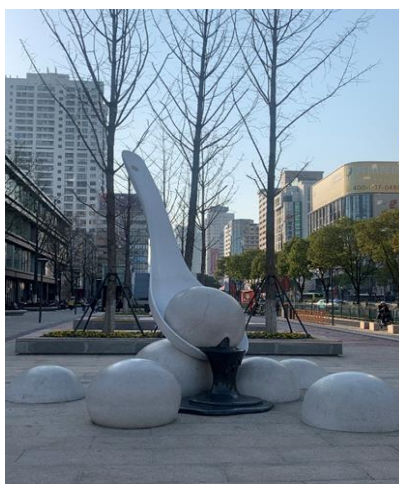


Figure 3. 'Ningbo Dumplings'

3.3. It has the Function of Presenting the Regional and Customary Culture of the City

As each region has its own regional and customary culture, the regional culture of a city can be directly transformed into a source of public art creation, with most public art being associated with aspects of culture that are in line with local characteristics, and the public being in a small area with a very different regional environment.[7] The city's culture is richer and the public receives more of it.

The combination of the two highlights the regional culture, as the soup spoons come down from the top and the soup dumplings (Fig. 3) are scattered around, with a staggered height. The combination of the two is a great way of highlighting the culture of the region, with the soup spoons going up and down and the dumplings being scattered around, bringing a sense of relaxation to the tired public, while the dumplings, as a regional speciality of Ningbo, also bring psychological comfort to the busy people.

3.4. It has the Role of Expressing Humanistic Concern

"Humanistic care" is to take people as the service purpose, in the design of public art needs to be more in line with the needs of the public, to meet the user's urban cultural needs; public needs and urban cultural environment throughout the public art, so that the public space gives the atmosphere of urban life, and the distance between people to draw closer, so that public art has to Social values and humanism are closely related, allowing the public to feel the openness, publicness and humanism of urban culture in public art. [8]

The development of urban culture takes people as its mainstay, and as the times have changed and people's aesthetic levels have risen, public art has also followed the transformation of people's thinking, with the public taking humanistic connotations as the soul of public art, forming it in diverse forms associated with the urban environment, combining urban cultural space with art, and providing people with a public space with a humanistic culture. [9]For example, the 'Big Love Silent' in Ningbo Haishu Love Park (Figure 4) combines social values and humanistic connotations, using the example of a Yongcheng man who made a silent donation of nearly 10,000 to set off the benevolent people who are also enthusiastic about charitable donations, symbolising the current social phenomenon, illustrating the growing number of people who donate in Ningbo, and the fact that charitable donations have been integrated into the lives of Ningbo people, representing the growth of love in society.



Figure 4: The Greatest Love of All

4. Ningbo Current Status of urban Cultural Construction and Public Art Development

With the rapid development of Ningbo's economy and the continuous improvement of people's living standards, people are paying more and more attention to the cultural construction within the city. [10] In recent years, Ningbo has been paying more and more attention to cultural construction and has increased its investment in the city's cultural construction, and the city's development has generally shown a positive trend, with increasing investment in public art and a growing image of the city.

4.1. Discovering the Problems of Public Cultural Space in Ningbo City

Public art on Ningbo's history and culture has been built around the "City God Temple Commercial Pedestrian Street" in Haishu District, a place where people gather to enjoy the city's history and culture and shopping, which has led to an increase in the number of people coming and going, thus driving the city's economic development. Although Ningbo's urban culture is constantly improving, there are still some public artworks that fall short of meeting the needs of the public and responding to the development of the times. In Ningbo's existing public art, public art is unevenly distributed, with the number varying greatly from district to district. Public art in the urban area is mainly concentrated in Yinzhou, Haishu and Jiangbei districts; the configuration of public art in the emerging urban areas is clearly inadequate, making some of Ningbo's citizens unaware of public art and their understanding of the city's cultural connotations remaining at a superficial level. Some public art has not been maintained for a long time after construction, and has been destroyed by man and washed away by rainwater, damaging public art and at the same time ignoring the cultural image of the city, failing to meet the needs of modern urban development.

4.2. Improving the Quality of Public Cultural Space in Ningbo Cities

Firstly, the public as the main body of the city, in the process of public art design and construction, to the actual situation, to meet the needs of the public as the premise; secondly, in line with the needs of the city's cultural development, according to the city's cultural history and in line with the trend of the times to improve the lack of public awareness; [11] finally, to give connotation to public art, the formation of a unique symbol on behalf of the city of Ningbo, so that more people understand Ningbo's urban culture. [12]

5. The Significance of Public Art in the Development of Urban Culture

Public art in the city can represent the image of the city, connect people in the city with the city culture, thus promoting the overall construction of the city culture, allowing the city culture to penetrate into the hearts of the public and become a landscape with cultural connotations in the city. [13]As a carrier of urban cultural development, public art records the history of the city, presents modern culture and envisages future development; it manifests the spirit of place of urban public art in a specific public space, meets the needs of urban development and people, generates spiritual interaction with the public, and integrates with urban culture. [14]

6. Conclusion

The development of urban public art and urban cultural connotations have echoed the development of the times, and it is vital to the inheritance and development of urban culture, generating open and public urban spaces in the process of urban development, allowing urban

residents to find the city's historical imprint and the characteristics of urban cultural development in public art, better integrating urban cultural connotations with the urban living environment, making urban cultural connotations deeply rooted in people's hearts. This will form an artistic bridge between urban culture and the creation of public space. [15]

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Conflict of Interest

The author states that this article has no conflict of interest.

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