

# Research on the application of formal beauty in patchwork art in contemporary women's wear design

Chuchu He, Mingding Ouyang

School of Wuhan Textile University, Wuhan, China

**Abstract:** The patchwork art has a long history and was mainly used to meet people's basic living needs in the early stage. With the development of the times, the aesthetic value and environmental protection value of patchwork art gradually attracted the attention of major brands and trendsetters. At present, the relevant theoretical research on the origin of patchwork culture has been relatively perfect, but there is still a need for in-depth research on the aesthetic form of modern patchwork art and its application in modern women's clothing. By summing up the formal beauty expression of patchwork art and its expression in clothing, this paper explores the application of the formal beauty of patchwork art in contemporary women's clothing design, and provides new ideas for the development of patchwork art in clothing design.

**Keywords:** Patchwork; Women's wear design; Application research.

## 1. A patchwork art that combines beauty with beauty

### 1.1. The past and present life of patchwork art

The patchwork art has been widely popular since ancient times. After a long time of use, the patchwork art has changed from the first practical means-oriented saving method to a design method to show personalized aesthetics.

In the West, patchwork art originated from the Middle Ages and the early Renaissance in the era of material scarcity. During this period, Europeans reused old, bad and some daily useless idle items to meet the needs of daily life. The waste cloth left by cutting clothes or the damaged old clothes naturally became the core of this movement. As the society ushered in the era of great change in the 1960s, people began to pursue freedom and yearn for individuality, and the patchwork art, with its own multi-elements, was dominated by avant-garde artists, and the traditional patchwork began the journey of true artistry. At the same time, many housewives in the United States have certain artistic design needs, leading to the fact that patchwork art in the United States is a popular art that everyone can accept and create, resulting in many distinctive patchwork art. This is also the reason why patchwork art can shine brilliantly in clothing design.

The patchwork, a product of the idea of "repairing the old and recycling the old", naturally will not be absent in China, a country that advocates thrift. Most of its inspiration comes from folk daily life and has strong local characteristics. For example, the traditional patchwork clothing in Yunnan-Guizhou region is different from the patchwork clothing in the Central Plains region. With the different aesthetic tastes of each era, patchwork clothing has accumulated rich skills and formed a colorful secular style. For example, in the Tang Dynasty, patchwork clothing was mostly used for court clothing, such as heaping damask and pasting silk. Another example is the "paddy field clothing", which was popular in the Ming Dynasty, began to be popular in the Tang Dynasty. In the early stage, it was made by irregular combination of various colors and pieces of cloth. However, with the development of the times, this mixture changed into a more

rigorous production process. Most of them were first cut into rectangular cloth strips, and then sewed into clothes regularly, thus gradually forming a messy and unified form.

### 1.2. Rhythmic beauty

The aesthetic sense of art is often inseparable from the beauty of rhythm. The beauty of rhythm of patchwork is mainly reflected in the density of its transverse seams, the layout of the picture, the color, and the composition of the pattern. In the process of patchwork art creation, the beauty of rhythm plays an important role in patchwork design. This is not only a form, but also an order. The formal rules of proportion and division, symmetry and balance, emphasis and contrast, repetition and continuity, golden section, diversity and unity in the patchwork picture bring important aesthetic significance to the patchwork.



Figure 1. The 11th Asian Patchwork Festival

The first prize work "Star", see Figure 1, won in the 11th Asian Patchwork Festival in 2019 is inspired by nature and life. The designer takes the overall situation as a whole and uses different combinations of patchwork, such as balance, rhythm and contrast, to express his own ideas. Different materials are matched with wonderful quilting, size control in

detail and accurate control of proportion, making the picture rich and rhythmic, Form works with strong personal color. The charm of rhythm makes the patchwork more aesthetic and brings people visual enjoyment.

### 1.3. Texture beauty

The essence of patchwork art is to reconstruct the elements of color, material, elements and structure, so as to reflect the beauty of order and rhythm and the beauty of texture. Through splicing and assembly, the texture formed by the crisscross and uneven texture changes on the fabric increases the texture and beauty of patchwork and patchwork clothing.

Whether in plane patchwork or three-dimensional patchwork design, the innovative design of fabrics and the texture beauty created by fabric transformation provide a huge space for innovation and development of patchwork art. The texture of part of the patchwork is the incomparable texture of the work brought by the exquisite embossing and embossing design see Figure 2. The new texture patchwork fabric is formed by the most simple and effective machine sewing technology, which makes the patchwork art more amazing. As a design method, this kind of fabric texture can not only add unique texture to the patchwork, but also highlight the concept and attitude conveyed by the designer. In the process of continuous transformation and remodeling, patchwork art not only greatly enriched the categories of fabrics, but also inherited the traditional patchwork techniques while introducing new ones, making patchwork art conform to the needs of fashion and the development of the times.



Figure 2. Texture beauty patchwork

### 1.4. Artistic beauty

In addition to the beauty of rhythm and artistic conception, the author believes that patchwork also has a sense of artistic conception. The patchwork is a kind of art type, and any art that wants to have the atmosphere and soul cannot leave the artistic conception and beauty. Some people say that "artistic conception is the unity of nature and heart", and the so-called "learning from nature and getting heart" is to seek Chinese romance in a simple way. The artistic beauty of patchwork can be formed in different forms. The patchwork "My Fantasy Garden", see Figure 3, depicts the posture background of a lotus blooming alone on the sparkling water, expressing the transformation of light and shadow from shallow to deep, giving people a strong sense of vision. The author mainly shows the green lotus leaves and blooming flowers through the free quilting technique, and the seemingly random color lines are extremely soft, It seems to make the water flow, and it seems to catch a flash of the unreal light and shadow on the water surface. At first glance, you can appreciate the artistic conception of ancient Chinese poetry that "the lotus leaves are

infinitely blue next to the sky, and the lotus flowers are otherwise red against the sun". The whole work is extremely fantastic.



Figure 3. Artistic conception patchwork

## 2. Various forms of patchwork in modern clothing design

As a design method combining traditional culture and modern environmental protection concepts, patchwork can be seen everywhere in our life. "Collage" is the main artistic feature of patchwork art. Different forms of patchwork can create different patchwork effects. Therefore, from the perspective of clothing design, the author will analyze the different forms of patchwork art in modern clothing design from three aspects: color, fabric and pattern.

### 2.1. Beauty of color expression

As one of the three elements of clothing design, color also plays an important role in patchwork clothing. In modern clothing, designers have boldly applied various colors to clothing. There are mainly two kinds of colors. One is the individual contrast color (as shown in Figure 2-1), which is 180 ° opposite color in the hue ring, and the other is the soft similar color and adjacent color, see Figure 4, which is the color within 90 ° in the hue ring. In many patchwork clothing design works, contrast color is applied to clothing, Adjacent colors are also used in clothing. For example, Westminster University's show is a large area of use of strong contrast colors for patchwork design. Although there are many colors on the clothing, it does not give people a fancy visual sense, but on the whole, it is very unified and harmonious. Blue and orange, green and red as two groups of contrast colors attract more attention of the audience; see Figure 5, is to use the adjacent dark purple and light purple to add blue embellishments, and use different materials for splicing. On the basis of coordination, it adds a sense of design to the clothing, giving people a special visual experience.

In addition to the matching method of contrast color and adjacent color, some designers will also apply patchwork to clothing according to their own preferences and styles. The collision of these unique colors, materials and patterns will flash a unique artistic spark and show the unique charm of patchwork art. As people's love for clothing becomes more and more personalized, this just meets the current consumer's concept of pursuing personal color clothing, and the consumer psychology of "people without me, pursuing novelty". At the same time, the collision between different colors is more conducive to the audience to feel the charm of the patchwork art world. In short, no matter the contrast color or the same color, the picture is amazing or harmonious. Different color composition forms can express different effects and unique sensory experience of patchwork clothing



works.



Figure 4. Chromatic ring



Figure 5. Westminster University

### 2.2. The beauty of fabric technology

The selection range of cloth for patchwork clothing is very wide. Designers often use different types of cloth pieces, such as fabric fragments, knitting elements, silk, fur, lace, brocade, chiffon, velvet and other compact and non-deformable fabrics to sew together. At the same time, with the skilled skills of designers, some ordinary fabrics become an artistic clothing work.

Fur and knitted fabrics can often give people a warm and fluffy feeling. It is very common to combine knitted or woven fabrics with fur in patchwork art. The patchwork knitted clothes look warm and comfortable. For example, Etro brand mainly uses natural colors. Etro, see Figure 6, skillfully combines ordinary materials and knitted fabrics with printing, making the clothes look both connotative and elegant. For example, Valentino's autumn and winter series released in Paris Fashion Week in 2015 also showed the advantages of different fabric splicing, see Figure 7, Valentino combines the elegant and fluffy fur fabric with the wear-resistant woven fabric, which not only ensures the soft and comfortable fur, but also avoids the deformation of the shoulder or hem during the wearing process. In the visual aspect, it also enhances the fashion sense of clothes. With the rapid progress of textile technology and textile materials, the frequency of splicing of various materials, whether textile materials or other materials, with clothing materials in clothing design will greatly increase, because the combination of new materials and traditional materials can, to a certain extent, solve its disadvantages while retaining the advantages of traditional materials. It can also enrich the visual effects of clothing.



Figure 6. Etro



Figure 7. Valentino

### 2.3. The beauty of pattern expression

An important turning point of patchwork clothing lies in the design of patterns, rather than the initial stage of patchwork. The patchwork clothing really has a scientific sense of sexy and interesting, rather than random and unexpected beauty. The patterns used in patchwork clothing often come from the designers' perception of life, reflect their inner thoughts, and have the attitude of integrating patchwork art into the life of the clothing industry, which really creates the connotation and level of patchwork clothing.

The patterns of patchwork clothing are mainly divided into regular patterns and irregular patterns. The patchwork clothes with irregular patterns mainly appear in modern times, which is different from the unconscious irregular patterns in ancient times. The irregular patterns of modern design are the irregular patterns carefully designed by most designers. This kind of pattern is used to express the designer's certain consciousness. It is an artistic technique obtained by the designer through deliberation and experiment. It shows the beauty of color combination or special patterns on the seemingly messy fabric stitching. In fact, irregularity can better express the sex appeal of the patchwork, increase the interest of the patchwork, and at the same time, it can better show the pattern essence of the original patchwork. The regular patchwork is an orderly beauty displayed by the designer through careful arrangement and combination. The common design techniques are repetitive. At the same time, the characteristic of regularity also provides a solution for the industrial production of patchwork clothing. The computer can easily regularize a certain design element, and the production workshop can also produce this kind of clothing with standardized patterns faster.

The expression methods of patchwork pattern mainly include stacking patchwork and collage pattern. Stacking and patching means to form a pattern by adding or reducing on the original basis. The collage pattern is to directly put the designed patterns together to form a collage. The author drew

a collage landscape pattern, see Figure 8, with the well-arranged mountains as the source of inspiration, and expressed the ups and downs of the mountains with five different colors and textures, forming a different visual experience. This kind of collage pattern is applied to clothing, which not only increases the recognition of clothing, but also makes an ordinary coat have the beauty of artistic conception, which greatly increases the artistry of a clothing, and also increases the connotation beauty of clothing.

No matter whether the pattern style of a patchwork dress is irregular or regular, its purpose is to make a dress look better, and to make a dress look good must be that the dress carries the "artistic conception" and "inspiration" beyond the purpose of use given by the designer. These can be expressed by patterns. When the pattern of a patchwork dress forms an artistic artistic artistic conception, it can stimulate the resonance of the audience and users.



**Figure 8.** Designed by the author

### 3. Summary

The patchwork clothing not only provides a choice for designers to display their ideas, but also injects fresh "blood" into the clothing design with different forms of beauty of patchwork art. With the continuous development of modern science and technology and people's spiritual world, the forms and styles of modern patchwork will become more and more abundant. Designers can not only form freehand brushwork through different patchwork forms of color, fabric and pattern, but also can realistically express the ideas and thoughts of clothing more accurately, express their understanding of beauty, inherit the traditional article of patchwork, and add interest and vitality to more people's lives.

In the era of emphasizing the value of environmental protection, patchwork clothing has gradually abandoned some of its former values and gradually evolved into a new fashion and sense of the times. At the same time, the personalization and artistry of patchwork itself are in line with the aesthetic trend of the current market. Therefore, the author believes that in the near future, patchwork clothing, as an artistic clothing with aesthetic sense and practicality, will continue to be used by designers, To provide a new idea of "integrating art into clothing" for clothing design, which is constantly moving towards the international fashion runway and the public's vision. With the change of people's perception of beauty and aesthetic needs, as well as the pursuit of quality of life and the focus on the inner world, the patchwork art will also be integrated into people's life in a richer form.

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