

Exploring the Inspiration of Valerian Technique on Creative Thinking of Clothing Design

Zhengyang Li, Jing Sun

Institute of Art & Fashion, Tianjin Polytechnic University, Tianjin, China

Email: Woshili.zhengyang@163.com, sunjing@tjtu.edu.cn

Abstract: Bar Valerian is the fourth step in tie-dye craft, and this step is full of creative idea. However, a number of contemporary designers and researchers mostly make a lot use of the result of tie-dye (finished product of tie-dye), tie-dye patterns, and fashion designers are just apply patterns, colors and so on to the design, which ignores the meaningful process of Bar Valerian, but it can also be used and appreciated. This essay explores the application of Bar Valerian process in the fashion design, trying to find a creative thinking pattern on clothing design.

Keywords: Valerian Technique; fashion design; creative thinking

In recent years, a Chinese fever is prevailing in the society, which has turned the "national element" into the substitute for fashion and becomes a source of inspiration for designers and hot topic. The designers have opened the book of China's history to seek national elements in various places across the country for inspiration and materials for their design. Paper cutting, shadow play, embroidery, all kinds of handicrafts, Chinese ancient buildings, etc. are all used as design elements in clothing by designers, but the results are far from satisfactory. In a lot of design works, China national elements are not extracted but are just used, which results that the design is not well reflected the China national elements, but very vulgar. Tie-dye craft is a Chinese ancient and traditional anti-dyeing craft, so it is also favored by many designers. The designers take tie-dye patterns, colors, craft products as elements and apply them in clothing design, but the results are not that good. As to how to use the national element in the design of fashionable clothing, I learn from previous failures and successful experiences, make use of the works of foreign masters, has been thinking and practicing for a long term. Take Bar Valerian for example, I come to that looking for the element in the process, to inject fresh blood for the design can bring inspirations to the design, get an unexpected gains and visual effects, and also form a unique design style, which let designers reflect and create a new design method to find our own design style. It is just like that the European clothing styles focus on human body, while the Japanese take an opposite-oriented style of stressing the innovation of clothing material and fabric structure. China is a big country abounds of clothing, we should reflect on it.

1. The visual innovation from plane to three-dimensional

Steps of tie-dye process is complicated, but it is a craft

full of creative ideas, and Bar Valerian, a kind of the anti-staining technique, is a step in tie-dye process, which is realized by the using of sewing techniques, binding, knotting, etc. There are many methods to tie knots, each with different texture and shape. It is in this process that the fabric transformed from plane to three-dimensional through Bar Valerian, and design clothes on this basis, while the unique clothing style enriching the visual effects and three-dimensional space sense, together with the detailed decoration on three-dimensional fabric with embroidery or beads make the design more perfect. Taking Bar Valerian process as an element of costume design is not only suitable for the creative concept of overall clothing design and for partial innovation and design of costumes, but also suitable for fashion design concept and clothing design, and can have a wide range of application.

What the nations having are also belong to the world. However, for the designer, it still has a long way to have China national elements enter into the stage through clothing. It is not because Chinese designers' skills are inferior to foreign designers, and what we lack is we not owning our own design style. Chanel once said that "fashion come and go, but style is eternal". As a rising star in the field of clothing, Japan enters in to the world market by virtue of their unique design style different from the European design. China is a country with five thousand years of civilization, and we grow up under the influence the culture, so our design should have its own characteristics. The feature is built-in instinct, rather than to imitate and copy the design of foreign masters, for we have our own design philosophy, but just has not yet been applied. So, to the designers of our country, it is the very time to have their own unique design style, and I also kept thinking of this issue. The various Bar Valerian with regular and irregular texture produced in the process of tie-dye have rich designing sense. The unfinished state of Valerian technique is full

of oriental connotation, and can bring with aesthetic taste and design style with Chinese characteristics if they are used for design, besides, the design philosophy and fashion symbol with Chinese character is a new visual experience, which have strong visual impact.



Figure 1 Valerian Technique



Figure 2 Valerian Method

2. The Innovative Design Methods of Valerian Technique

Specifically speaking, fashion design with Bar Valerian as the element is to design according to a variety of techniques of cloth tie and the generated texture. There are many Valerian techniques in fashion, and the most commonly used are round tying, stripe tying, folding tying, folding the bundle tying, folding screens tying, seam cutter method, twisted stitches volume method and folder bar method. [1] Its concept is mainly to tie up according to the shape of the to-be-dyed pattern to prevent being dyed, so the pattern of tying depends on the designs of the to-be-dyed pattern. Each tying method takes on the infinite variety of three-dimensional form. The designers design the clothes according to the shape of Bar Valerian. There are two methods for design and one is the partial design. After the designer has figured out the outline of the clothing, he/ she can focus on the details of clothing, because good clothing should stress the refined detail and meaningful details can not be ignored. This design enable clothes more abundant overall visual effect, enhance the decorative features of clothing, help the design of clothing transform from two-

dimensional plane to three-dimension, which itself is an innovation. The other is the overall design. Firstly, make innovative design of the clothing pieces in accordance with Valerian Technique, and then make the overall design the designed pieces. It is necessary to set priorities in the process, for the outline design of the clothing is very important, which should highlight the design elements. [2]

3. Designing a variety of styles

In the art dictionary, "form style" refers to a particular design orientation embodied by the overall works. If Valerian Technique is applied in the design, clothing can be designed into a variety of costumes and styles. Ordinary white cotton cloth is commonly used in the traditional tie-dye process. While the designers rethink it and do the re-design, different material texture comparison can be applied, such as light and heavy, thick and thin, soft and hard, complicated and simple. Color can also be contrasted and combined with different brightness, purity, and hue to highlight the special beauty of a variety of texture in the costumes design produced by Valerian Technique. The designers can also Y also add the popular elements to the design. Taking Valerian Technique as the design element can produce a variety of clothing styles, and have a large range of application but not just limited to the original state and style of Valerian Technique. Bold innovation and flexible use of the knowledge of fashion design realizes more rich costumes and styles.

4. with the Assistance of Three-dimensional Cutting

Three-dimensional cutting is indispensable skill for a designer, for sometimes it just is not enough to cut into a flat pattern. Through three-dimensional cutting, the designer can adjust the work to its best state, and can also inspire the designer with some unexpected novel ideas. Therefore, the designer should bear in mind the design concept, make use of the characteristic of three-dimensional cutting, take random adjustment of space relationships between human body and clothing, continue to strengthen and highlight the design style taking Valerian technique as element, increase sense of space and sense of hierarchy, thus make the best use of Valerian technique.

5. Inspiration of tie-dye process for creative thinking

The above have talked about the how to apply the tie-dye process to the creative clothing design, and analyzed the process of tie-dye combing with various creative ways can express a variety of creative intention, stimulate creative inspiration, and form flexible creative



Figure 3 the application of Valerian Technique in clothing

ways. I'd like to take this for example to reflect this thought process of the creation, and find that the thinking process of creative thinking can be summarized as: a way of creative thinking guides the designer's creation. There are two ways of designer's creation, one is to design based on limited theme, and another is to design according to one's own wishes. Whichever ways as they are, one must first find material, and then refine it through the designer's thinking pattern to choose the right art composition and design style to manifest it. In this creative process, the key is to find inspiration for creative designers, looking for design elements and how to use elements. From the inspiration on tie-dye process on creative thinking of clothing and the process of it, we know that beauty is not a direct reproduction of already perfect thing, and the "process" is the changes before things finally formed. For example, many designers prefer to take building as a source of inspiration and employ characteristics of the architecture appearances or colors for their innovative design, nonetheless, the

employment of "process" thinking pattern enables you to use the uncompleted architecture structure to design, thus produce visual impact more striking than completed one. "Process" thinking pattern is not only a new perspective and way of thinking to find the innovative design elements, but more a design philosophy, which requests the designers to think with heart, and apply it with flexibility but not copy it mechanically when they master it.

6. Conclusions

As mentioned above, from the discussion and analysis of tie-dye process ---the employment of the meaningful texture produced by Valerian Technique into clothing design and the diversified, arbitrary and artistic design styles it produced has a broad exploration space, so the inspiration to creative thinking arises from the design concepts of searching for beauty and inspiring elements. Creative thinking is important to the designer. Costume idea is the cultural awareness of the designer, and the key is innovation. Outstanding designers have excellent design thinking, sense of style, creativity of expression and design, and can form their own creative thinking and innovative approaches, which have great influence on the future the designer. The "process" creative thinking requires the designers to be more creative in the practice and research further.

References

- [1] Zhu Yile. Tie-dye Process [M]. Tianjin: Tianjin Renmei Press, 2006
- [2] Su Jie. An Exploration on Fold Type and Crafts Performance Methods of Clothing [J]. Zhejiang: Journal of Zhejiang University of Science and Technology, 2005.22 (9)