

A Study on the Handicraft Expressed in Modern Fashion

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In the irony over human alienation that followed the development of material civilization, people today are instinctively searching for fashion that will bring a recovery of expression in pure susceptibility and genuine humanity. Recently clothing inclined to handicraft is portrayed as valuing emotions rather than functions. With a spread of custom-made consumption, handicraft is becoming a trend of fashion today. A tendency to look for personalized goods by modern consumers, free from functional consumption, stands in line with handicraft in a more diversified and individualized society.

The purpose of this research is focused on the consequences of handicraft that appear in modern fashion trends. The characteristics of handicraft in modern fashion are examined. The characteristics and the types of handicraft techniques are also analyzed in details. The study is a document-based research. Books and the mass media such as newspapers and magazines are used as major resources for the study on social and cultural changes in domestic and foreign countries. Information from web-sites and magazines from the 1990s to present are used to obtain documental and photographic data.

The results of the research are as follows:

First, various works of handicraft mainly consist of manual works and have resulted in the flourishing of handicraft fashion once again. The research shows that people prefer handicraft works on personalized goods to mass-produced goods although it takes more time to produce one.

Second, incomplete hand-made effects and body-conscious ornamental effects characterize handicraft in modern clothing. These phenomena seem to appear from people's desire to escape from dry and repetitive patterns of rigid intellectual lifestyles in stereotyped civilization to pure and primitive instincts.

Third, handicraft techniques applied in modern fashion include dyeing, embroidery, quilting, patchwork, beading, fashion painting and other things. Varieties of expressions are shown to

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reveal resistance to depersonalization brought by mechanical factors of scientific techno-media and the efforts to recover humanity.

Based on the analysis presented above modern fashion will yearn and strive for handcraft as a positive force to recover the purity of mankind as long as the dehumanization and destruction of natural environment by mechanistic civilization continue.