THE PROPENSITY OF AESTHETICS
PERCEPTION OF THE EAST

by

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Abstract

The essay is an attempt to investigate on the inclination of aesthetic perception of the east. It aims at providing an a-historical investigation into the object and subject relationships of Chinese perception on aesthetics and the consequent of this proposition of thoughts. The hypothesis that I am making here is that the process supersedes the object in the Chinese-aesthetic philosophy. If this is true than it will have a great bearing on the understanding of Chinese aesthetics. I have limited the scope of my study to Chinese aesthetic philosophy. By definition Chinese alone do not constitute to the whole makeup of the east. But by population size or geographical area Chinese have a huge influence over the region.

The nature of Chinese aesthetic is a complex one. Very often Chinese aesthetic, ethic and moral philosophies share the same books and probably the same texts. This has
given rise to misunderstandings. The first step is to rationalise the philosophies by Confucius and the Taoist. Both of these philosophers are great influence on Chinese aesthetic perception. Thus, the hypothesis has to be tested out through the use of vehicles like the paintings and calligraphy and even architecture to demonstrate the impermanent nature of the object. The use of these vehicles will help rationalise these philosophies, making them more comprehensible.

The main findings of this paper are that the object and subject relationship is not a clear-cut one and relatively more value is placed on the process rather than the result. That is not to imply that the end result is totally disregarded but that good result is that consequence of the appreciation of the process. The result itself in Chinese perception is immaterial and impermanent. This is where the process supersedes the object in importance. In conclusion the paper has shown the natural propensity of the Chinese aesthetic philosophy and understanding of how that has shaped the ways Chinese perceives the world. By discussing the Chinese aesthetics on a more rationalistic point of view the dissertation hopes to provide a different and more accurate understanding of the Chinese aesthetics philosophy.

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