

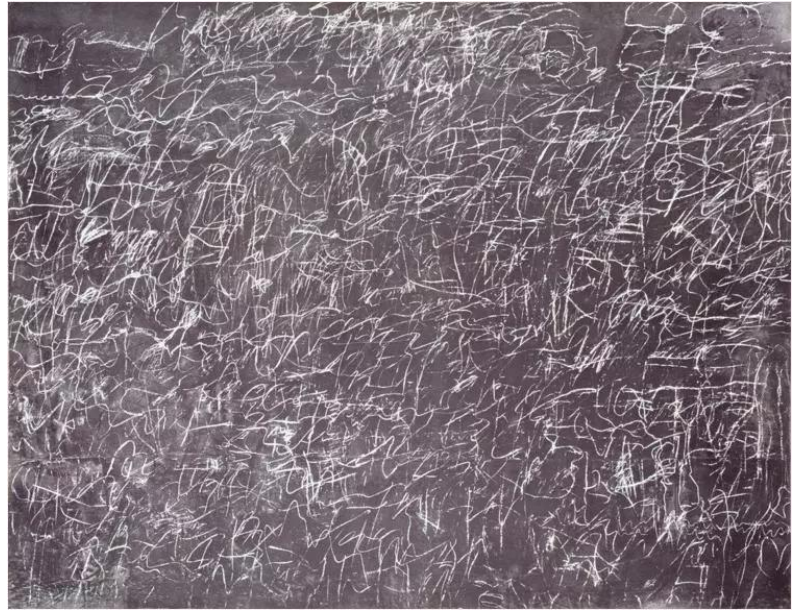
## **Mysterious sense of ritual**

### **the combination of traditional art patterns and free graffiti**

In China, the traditional patterns are derived from the pottery patterns in primitive societies, which have a history of 6,000 to 7,000 years. The rigorous and symmetrical geometry is colorful and mystery, with a strong artistic atmosphere and Chinese characteristics. However, with the continuous development of society and the accelerating process of globalization, obviously traditional culture and antediluvian ideas have clearly failed to meet the needs of people. So as to seek innovation and breakthrough, cultural hybridisation has become the theme of today. We often see Asian elements such as Ninjas and Kung fu in Hollywood movies. Disney cartoons have taken stories with traditional national characteristics of countries. The combination of traditional culture and modern technology has constantly impacted people's horizons, as well as the art field. Artists always use different forms and materials to embody the richness in an art work. Graffiti elements always occupied a large proportion in the artistic form and style of contemporary art. Graffiti has free and simple lines. Let simple graffiti has "logical ability" - the combination of free graffiti patterns and rigorous symmetrical traditional patterns is the direction of this essay. Let the rigorous patterns have a whimsical contemporary, give the graffiti of freedom a rigorous logic, and explore from both to discover the symbol and art styles that are only mine.

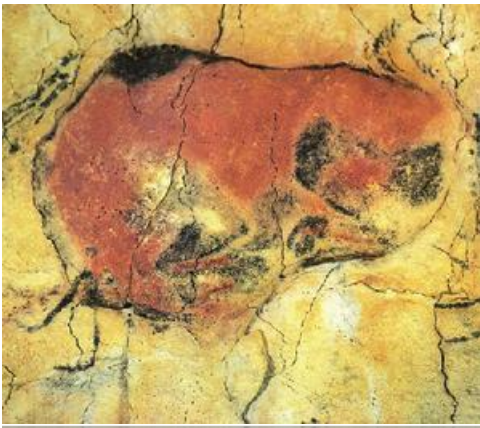


**Wheel of Life(1700-1799)**



**Cy Twombly, Panorama(1955)**

Chinese writer Lu Xun once said in the "And lie the station miscellaneous text gather ":  
“More national, more the world.” In ancient, information exchange was blocked and people were not exposed to foreign culture, so the traditional cultural art by created has a deep artistic heritage and national characteristics. Until now, it is still the key to a country's survival and development. “Traditional culture is a kind of civilization product produced by a country and a nation after several years of accumulation and transformation. If you do not have your own cultural heritage, your own cultural tradition will gradually disappear, then this nation will die soon.” (Xing Fusheng, 2017) The strong personal characteristics of traditional art forms can transcend time and space, it is an eternal existence. This traditional art originally derived from the inadvertent graffiti in the daily life of the ancients, and then it became a means of recording and decoration in people's lives and continued to develop. For example, the earliest painting "Injured Bison" discovered in the cave of Altamira in northern Spain. ("Secrets of the Cave Paintings", 2006) Graffiti is the purest and



**Injured Bison**

most direct expression in the memory of ancients' daily life. "Graffiti is older than invention of towns and cities, since examples existed even on the walls of prehistoric caves."(Sandrine pereira, 2005) Then, through the continuous development of society and the enhancement of people's subjective consciousness, graffiti has gradually become a traditional art, with more rigorous appearance, more colorful and more subjective

expression. Traditional art comes from graffiti, both of them are inseparable.

In today's society, people do not seem to associate traditional art patterns with graffiti. "Traditional thought, culture, morality, customs, art, institutions, and behaviors passed down from history. It has an intangible influence and control on people's social behavior." (Thesauruses,2009) Traditional art is solemn and serious in people's impressions, in stark contrast to free, casual graffiti. In a recent survey of a Chinese university, who 'like' traditional culture are 42%, 'normal' are 42%, only 11% 'favorite' , and even 4% are 'dislike'.(search from website) For street graffiti, some people like it, some people are disgusted, and some people seem unable to understand graffiti, confuse scribbles with street graffiti, and feel dissatisfied to graffiti. Graffiti is more popular in young people.(South Daily, [www.news.163.com](http://www.news.163.com)) However, in my opinion, with the development of globalization, cultures from all over the world blend together, and the types of knowledge that people absorb are becoming more and more abundant. Young people who grow up in this environment are more accepted, and the personal characteristics of artist and their work is no longer as strong as traditional art. Chinese artist Huangdu said: 'The works of contemporary artists have a lot of mixed things. It is difficult to define whether the creator

is Chinese or Japanese through an art work.'(Huangdu, 2015) People more understand, more affected by the environment, the works they make are easily lost personal style and simple aura to become mediocrity. But it is not that artists should not learn more knowledge. Artists should find their own characteristics and styles after they have learned so much knowledge, then, they will achieve more advanced works. Therefore, I hope to use and combines the deep artistic heritage of traditional art patterns and simple of graffiti to explore my own artistic style.

Traditional art patterns are a classic and ultimate art in my cognition. Brilliant color schemes and patterns with strong ethnic characteristics give a sense of enlightenment and mission, especially symmetrical patterns. Whether it's Chinese paper-cuts, European church murals, or African Totem art, symmetrical patterns appear in traditional art patterns around the world. The ancients used symmetrical patterns to express the self-consciousness of the universe and humans. I think that human life is cyclical, from birth to adult to aging, and eventually return to the soil. Symmetrical patterns are like human life,

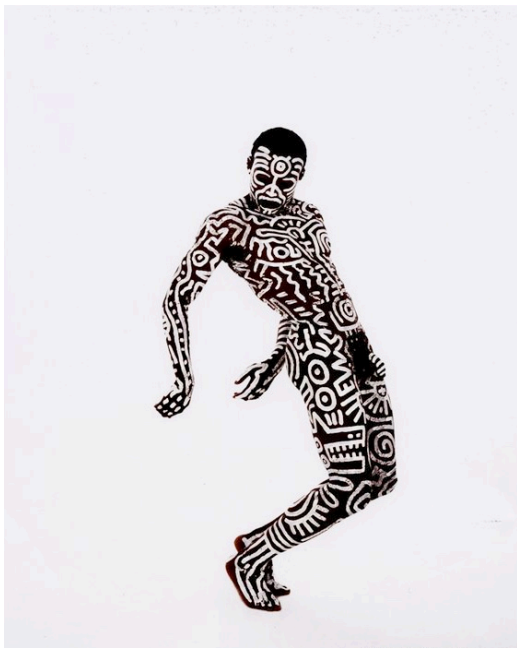


**Painting(2017)**  
**(my work)**

mysterious and reciprocating, and like the universe, beyond the existence of time and space, seem to carry too much information from the past and the future that needs to be conveyed to others. But I hope that this information is simple and intuitive, so that people who mature still feel simple and moving. Graffiti has this simple power. Combine graffiti with traditional symmetrical patterns to convey my thoughts on the world. In the previous works, I pay more attention to the effect and form, with



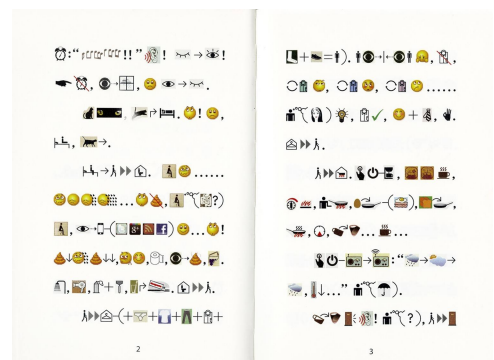
the deep meaning of the work. After determining the theme, I will think about how to make the form of the picture stronger to enhance the effect of the work. For example, I will deliberately create some stream effects, deliberately leave some places that are not color and avoid the full color to make the art work look clumsy. Now I pay more attention to the emotions and temperament behind the art work. Sometimes the clumsiness is pure, the theme is not necessarily deep but my favourite even if it is my daily life. On the art work, the rigorous symmetrical pattern and bright colors make the casual graffiti look richer and



By Keith Haring

fuller. I will also use more different materials to fill the picture with more possibilities. For example, ropes, plastics even wood, all of elements which make the picture more natural and full. In the field of art, many artists are constantly trying to find their own artistic style through fusion to express their deep thinking about the world. Graffiti and Totem culture are combined in the art work of American graffiti artist Keith Haring. "Keith's partial graffiti pattern with Indian or African tribal totems. He collaborated

with Bill T. Jones, the godfather of American modern dance, to paint a totem-like piece of white paint on Bill's nude, a time-critical topic." (leuvenartgossip, 2016) The Chinese artist Xu Bing's works are combines the wisdom of Chinese traditional culture "Laozi,Zhuanzi" and contemporary art. "For example, the work "Land Book", the book is written for seven years, Xu Bing after seven years of material collection, concept scrutiny, experiment, rewrite adjustment, overthrow, re-entry,



Land Book(2003-2010)

there is no word in the whole book, the book uses all kinds of logos language and symbolic descriptions, a fun and interesting record of the typical life of a modern city people day and a day. This is a book that is published anywhere and does not need to be translated. No matter what kind of cultural background, what language to speak, as long as people with contemporary life experience can read it.”(Cheng Ying,2013) British contemporary artist Grayson Perry described his work *Our Father*, (Making Meaning,2018), “He’s carrying a bunch of metaphors around with him, a kind of literal cultural baggage: everything from an



**Grayson Perry-Our Father(2007)**

iPod and a Hindu frieze to skulls and icons. I like the fact that he’s difficult to place, a sort of everyman.” (Making Meaning, p.50) Grayson Perry likes religious art, and his works often show some traditional artistic forms in Western paintings and the elements of mysterious Eastern religious. Not only perfectly combines high art and popular culture, the Eastern tradition and the Western civilization, but also made the audience feel the intensely personal style and the message of the times conveyed in his art works.

Fusion is the theme of today, and each artist is looking for his own style in a complex blend of information and culture. I'm not sure if this is a good or bad trend, but a lot of things may only be practiced before I know what to do next. How traditional symmetrical patterns match color are better combined with graffiti elements, how the use of different materials makes the picture look fuller is what I need most in my art work, and it is also the direction that will continue to be explored. Look for my own symbol and artistic style in the heritage of traditional culture and casualness of contemporary art.

**Words: 1550**

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