

Exploring the Cultural Significance of Sculpture in Urban Public Spaces

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Abstract

This paper discusses the cultural significance of sculpture in urban public spaces and its impact on urban image, local identity, and social interaction. As a distinctive art form, sculpture not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of urban environments but also serves as a cultural bridge between history and the future, fostering emotional resonance among citizens and strengthening community identity. Through interviews, this paper provides insights into the perceptions and views of local residents, artists and cultural scholars, tourists and visitor groups, and community managers on the cultural significance of urban public sculpture. This study argues that sculpture fulfills multiple functions in urban public spaces, including environmental beautification, historical commemoration, social value expression, and participation in the creation of urban public art. Moreover, through its visual and symbolic nature, sculpture can provide emotional support for urban residents, offering a sense of cultural belonging and spiritual connection. To fully realize these cultural functions, the design and placement of sculptures should align with community needs, cultural contexts, and social values. Additionally, the integration of digital technology presents new opportunities for innovation in urban sculpture. This paper highlights that through government policy support, public engagement, and technological advancements, sculpture can play a vital role in urban cultural development, infusing public spaces with renewed vitality. As a key medium of urban culture, sculpture not only enhances the urban landscape but also serves as a vehicle for historical transmission and spiritual expression. Future research should further explore how to optimize spatial planning and technological applications in sculpture to accommodate the evolving cultural demands of urban societies.

Keywords: Sculpture, Urban Public Space, Cultural Significance, City Cultural Image, Local Identity

Introduction

With the rapid advancement of urbanization, the function of urban public spaces has expanded beyond their traditional roles in transportation and commerce to encompass culture, art, and social interaction (Carmona, 2021). Public spaces are not only integral to

people's daily lives but also serve as crucial carriers of urban cultural identity and spiritual support. Historically, urban public spaces primarily facilitated transportation and commerce, offering basic conveniences for daily life (Stanley et al., 2012). However, as society has evolved, these spaces have gradually transformed into hubs for cultural engagement, socialization, and leisure. Parks, plazas, and street art, for instance, have become essential components of modern urban life, enriching the diversity of city dwellers' experiences and providing greater emotional and social support (Páramo, 2017). The acceleration of urbanization is an undeniable global phenomenon. With population growth and industrialization, cities have transitioned from traditional agricultural settlements into modern metropolises (Oluseyi, 2006).

This transformation not only drives increased material demands but also profoundly impacts the spatial structure and functionality of urban areas. The multifunctionality of urban public spaces has made them important venues for self-expression, social interaction, and the exchange of ideas (Grabalov & Nordh, 2022). As a prominent form of public art, sculpture serves as a bridge in these spaces, fostering cultural transmission and reinforcing national identity (Al-Zadjali, 2024). Through visual, auditory, and tactile experiences, sculptures can evoke emotional resonance among the public, strengthening their sense of belonging to the community (Di Dio et al., 2007). Furthermore, with rising environmental awareness, urban public spaces must adopt more sustainable approaches. Sculpture and artistic design play a vital role in not only enhancing urban aesthetics but also fostering cultural interaction and engagement. By integrating sustainability into the design and function of urban public spaces, cities can create environments that are both visually appealing and culturally enriching, while simultaneously promoting ecological consciousness (Carmona, 2021).

As a significant artistic heritage of humanity, sculpture plays a vital role in urban public spaces. Beyond enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the environment, it embodies profound cultural, historical, and emotional significance (Gjesdal et al., 2020). With the acceleration of urbanization and the increasing demand for public spaces, studying the symbolism of sculpture in urban contexts has become increasingly important.

First, sculpture in urban public spaces serves as a crucial medium for cultural expression and identity (Yingfang et al., 2024). The symbolic elements of different cultures and regions are often embedded in sculptures, which convey specific historical narratives and cultural values through their design and materials. For instance, public sculptures in many countries reflect national identity and social norms through distinctive artistic styles (Baykurt & Göğebakan, 2024). These works not only enhance the urban landscape but also provide a means for individuals to connect with and better understand their cultural heritage, thereby fostering a sense of identity.

Second, sculpture contributes to emotional resonance and spiritual sustenance in urban public spaces. Public sculptures often possess a strong expressive function, evoking emotional responses through visual, auditory, or tactile experiences (Zakaria, 2019). This emotional engagement is not limited to art enthusiasts but also influences the perspectives and values of the general public. By interacting with or simply appreciating these artworks, individuals can find solace and support, strengthening their emotional bond with the city (Lomas, 2016).

Moreover, sculpture plays a key role in fostering identity and a sense of belonging within urban spaces. Cities are complex ecosystems, and sculptures, as integral components, help people develop a deeper connection to their surroundings (Ignatieva et al., 2011). Engaging with public art—whether through participation in its creation or passive appreciation—enables citizens to feel more connected to their community, reinforcing their sense of belonging. This sense of attachment is not only a source of personal emotional fulfillment but also an essential factor in building urban cohesion. Furthermore, sculpture contributes to shaping a city's image and cultural spirit. Urban public spaces serve as reflections of a city's identity and character, and sculptures enhance this by showcasing unique historical and artistic elements (Gaffikin et al., 2010). Beyond beautifying the urban environment, they infuse cities with symbolic meaning and cultural depth, making them more attractive and cohesive.

Nevertheless, research on the cultural significance of sculpture in urban public spaces remains insufficient. First, most existing studies primarily focus on the aesthetic analysis of urban public spaces, with limited exploration of the deeper cultural meanings embedded in these sculptures. Current research lacks the depth needed to fully uncover the relationship between sculpture and urban public spaces in terms of cultural context, historical heritage, and social value. Second, interdisciplinary perspectives have not been sufficiently emphasized. The cultural significance of sculpture intersects with multiple fields, including sociology, art, and history; however, existing studies often rely on the analytical frameworks of single disciplines, leading to fragmented and incomplete understandings of its broader implications.

The contributions of this paper are as follows: (1) A new way of cultural expression and dissemination. Sculpture in urban public spaces serves as a medium for cultural communication by transforming the city's cultural connotations into visual, tactile, and emotional experiences through unique artistic forms. This approach not only strengthens the city's cultural identity but also provides the public with opportunities to engage with and experience the city's spirit; (2) Enhance the functionality and aesthetics of urban public space. By integrating sculptures with cultural significance, urban public spaces are not only functionally enriched but also aesthetically and socially enhanced. This fusion transforms public spaces into hubs of urban cultural life, fostering a deeper emotional connection between citizens and the city; (3) Protecting and handing down the city's cultural memory. As a form of "frozen art," sculpture plays a crucial role in preserving the history, national identity, and significant events of a city in a lasting manner. This form of cultural heritage transmission contributes to the protection of the city's historical legacy while serving as a source of inspiration for future generations; (4) Promoting artistic innovation and diversity in urban public space. The exploration of sculpture in urban public spaces provides artists with a vast creative platform while infusing cities with renewed artistic vitality and cultural depth. This dynamic interaction between art and the urban environment promotes artistic diversity and innovation, enriching the cultural landscape of the city.

Literature Review

Sculpture and City Cultural Image

Sculpture is an art form that involves shaping objects to visually convey emotions, ideas, or narratives (Li, 2024). It serves not only as a medium for artistic expression but also as a vital

vehicle for cultural transmission and communication. In urban public spaces, sculpture functions as both an artistic expression and an essential component of a city's identity (Wango, 2021). The presence of sculpture in these spaces exhibits several significant characteristics.

First, sculpture is not merely decorative; it also serves functional purposes. For instance, sculptures can be designed to guide traffic, enhance the urban environment, or provide cultural education. Second, many urban sculptures incorporate abstract or symbolic designs, often embedding specific cultural meanings or social contexts. This design approach positions sculpture as a crucial medium for interpreting and reflecting urban culture and values (Yang et al., 2023). Third, contemporary sculpture in urban public spaces is increasingly characterized by interactivity and public engagement. Through interactive installations that encourage citizen participation, sculpture extends beyond visual appeal to evoke emotional resonance and stimulate cultural reflection. Finally, in the context of globalization, many urban sculptures integrate international artistic influences with local cultural elements. This fusion of global and local characteristics enhances the uniqueness and representativeness of urban sculptures, making them important symbols of cultural identity and exchange.

Sculpture serves multiple functions in urban public spaces, playing a crucial role in shaping a city's identity. Well-designed sculptures enable cities to convey their historical heritage, cultural characteristics, and social values (Iacobone, 2021). Many cities, for instance, enhance their cultural appeal by incorporating sculptures that reflect local traditions, thereby fostering residents' cultural identity and pride. Moreover, sculptures in urban public spaces contribute to strengthening citizens' sense of cultural belonging. By showcasing artworks rooted in local culture, they facilitate cross-cultural understanding and promote community cohesion. Additionally, sculptures with educational significance can serve as tools for disseminating scientific knowledge or historical narratives (Papavasileiou et al., 2021). Through artistic expression, these works not only inform but also stimulate public interest in culture and aesthetics. Beyond cultural and educational functions, the strategic placement of sculptures enhances the urban environment and optimizes spatial functionality. For example, sculptures can be integrated into urban design to guide traffic, define distinct areas, or beautify green spaces, thereby improving both the visual appeal and functional efficiency of the city. Furthermore, interactive sculptures can actively engage the public, encouraging cultural participation and enriching aesthetic experiences. By incorporating movable or interactive installations, urban spaces invite viewers to take part in the artistic process, fostering a deeper connection between the community and public art.

Sculpture in urban public spaces is not merely a source of visual enjoyment for viewers; it also serves as a bridge for emotional communication. Through sculpture, individuals can experience specific emotional atmospheres, prompting reflections on history, culture, and ways of life (Galchynska et al., 2023). This emotional resonance is not limited to art enthusiasts but extends to the broader public, becoming a crucial means of enhancing the quality of urban life. In the context of globalization, the cultural significance of sculpture in urban public spaces has become increasingly prominent. By showcasing the cultural identities of different nations and regions, sculpture fosters cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding. For instance, in cosmopolitan cities, the installation of multicultural sculptures

not only enriches the city's cultural landscape but also provides a platform for intercultural respect and exchange.

In summary, sculpture holds significant cultural value and plays a multifaceted role in urban public spaces. It is not only an integral component of a city's image but also a vital medium for conveying cultural narratives and fostering social cohesion. As urbanization continues to progress and societal needs evolve, the scientific and strategic utilization and preservation of urban sculpture will have a profound impact on the sustainable development of cities. In the future, advancements in artistic innovation and urban planning will further enhance the role of sculpture in shaping urban identities, disseminating culture, and fulfilling social functions. Therefore, strengthening research and practical applications of urban sculpture will not only contribute to the flourishing of urban culture but also provide essential theoretical insights and practical guidance for urban development.

Sculpture, City Cultural Image, Local Identity and Social Interaction

In the context of globalization, public art has emerged as a significant artistic form, garnering increasing attention from both academia and society. Compared to private art, public art possesses greater social influence and broader dissemination (Widrich, 2024). As a key form of public art, sculpture plays an especially prominent role in the public sphere. The symbolic elements embedded in sculpture—such as representations of natural landscapes and humanistic imagery—can evoke emotional resonance in viewers and provoke reflections on social issues. Many public sculptures are designed with interactive or participatory elements, encouraging audience engagement in the artistic process and fostering the concept that "the audience is the artist." This study further explores the relevant study on the link between sculpture, city cultural image, local identity and social interaction.

(1) Sculpture and City Cultural Image

With the rapid advancement of urbanization and modernization, sculpture has become an increasingly significant element of urban spaces. Beyond serving as a visual art form, sculpture functions as a cultural medium, conveying a city's history, spirit, and social values through artistic expression (Li, 2024). In recent years, as urbanization has progressed, researchers have conducted extensive studies on the relationship between sculpture and urban cultural identity.

The connection between sculpture and urban life can be traced back to the earliest civilizations, where humans used sculpture to express their emotions toward nature and society. As cities have expanded, sculpture has evolved into an integral component of urban spaces (Naya et al., 2023). Scholars widely acknowledge that sculpture is not merely a product of artistic creation but also a crucial representation of urban culture. Through its form, material, and symbolism, sculpture reflects the character and identity of a city. Recent studies suggest that the distinct sculptural styles of different cultures contribute to a city's unique visual identity and serve as symbols of urban recognition. For instance, in Tokyo, modern and minimalist sculptures harmonize with classical architecture to create a distinctive urban aesthetic, while in Paris, sculptures interact with modernist architecture to evoke a romantic French atmosphere (Kaya, 2024).

The role of sculpture as a cultural symbol extends beyond mere decoration; it also embodies a city's historical memory and cultural identity. In response to this, scholars have emphasized that urban sculpture should not only possess aesthetic appeal but also convey deeper cultural meanings and symbolic significance. Some cities have incorporated artistic elements rooted in local traditions, ensuring that sculptures resonate with the cultural background of their communities. Beyond its traditional decorative function, urban sculpture increasingly serves diverse social purposes, including education, public engagement, and cultural dissemination (Zheng, 2021). This multifunctionality has reinforced the role of sculpture as an essential element of the urban environment, contributing to the enrichment of public spaces and the promotion of cultural awareness.

As a cultural medium, sculpture serves multiple functions within the urban landscape. Through its form, color, and symbolism, sculpture conveys specific emotions and values. Many cities strategically place sculptures that reflect local cultural heritage or address social issues, guiding citizens to engage in critical thought and action. Beyond its artistic significance, sculpture is an essential component of a city's identity and spatial organization. It contributes to the urban landscape by shaping public spaces and reinforcing cultural identity. For instance, in New York's Central Park, sculptures not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of the environment but also integrate into the daily lives of residents, serving as focal points for social and recreational activities (Zhu et al., 2022). Moreover, urban sculptures often carry profound historical and cultural significance. They serve as commemorations of the past while also projecting aspirations for the future. By engaging with public sculptures, individuals gain insight into a city's historical narratives and cultural heritage. Furthermore, sculpture plays a vital role in strengthening a city's cultural identity. Well-designed public sculptures foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of local culture, helping residents develop a stronger sense of connection and belonging to their urban environment (Wang, 2022).

(2) Sculpture and Local Identity

Local identity refers to an individual's connection to and identification with the cultural, historical, and social aspects of a particular region (Schnell & Reese, 2003). Sculpture, as a significant element of urban public space, plays a crucial role in enhancing the public's sense of belonging and connection to their region through its artistic features.

With the rapid pace of urbanization and the blending of cultures in the context of globalization, sculpture has become an increasingly important medium in the formation and development of local identity. It serves not only as a visual symbol but also as a key means by which individuals express their sense of community and cultural attachment. Through its unique form, color, and symbolism, sculpture can reflect the historical, spiritual, and cultural characteristics of a region, fostering emotional identification with local heritage and values. In recent years, scholars have conducted extensive research on the relationship between sculpture and local identity. Many argue that sculpture is not only an integral part of urban culture but also a vital carrier of local identity. By conveying specific cultural values and social emotions through its design, texture, and symbolism, sculpture becomes a medium for individuals to remember, express, and reaffirm their connection to their community and cultural heritage.

Sculpture is widely used as a symbol of local culture in various regions. For instance, in some rural areas of southern China, traditional stone carvings serve not only as decorative elements but also as integral parts of the cultural life of farmers, embodying their ancestors' deep understanding of the land and life (Budja, 2004). Through their unique artistic styles and cultural significance, these carvings act as vehicles for preserving collective memory and heritage. Sculpture can evoke a sense of cultural pride and emotional connection, encouraging individuals to identify with their own traditions. In certain Western cities, contemporary artists create sculptures that integrate local cultural and historical elements to express their respect and affection for regional culture (Andrews, 1999). This emotional expression not only strengthens community cohesion but also introduces a new cultural dimension to local identity. Moreover, sculpture serves as a long-term tool for cultural memory. Many historical sculptures document the social characteristics and cultural attributes of specific periods, becoming crucial resources for studying societal development and transformation. For example, the stone sculpture group near the Vienna Opera House in Austria not only holds aesthetic value but also functions as a historical record of the city's growth and evolution.

Sculpture also plays a vital role in the education and dissemination of local culture. Many schools and public spaces incorporate art sculptures to inspire cultural identity and patriotism in students by showcasing local traditions and historical narratives. As a medium of communication, sculpture fosters interaction and understanding among community members. In some communities, sculptures are not merely artistic creations but serve as shared emotional bonds for residents. By appreciating and discussing these sculptures, individuals can deepen their mutual understanding and support, thereby strengthening community cohesion (Ferilli et al., 2017). Additionally, sculpture has the capacity to evoke a sense of identity and belonging. Through artistic expressions that resonate with the local cultural context, sculptures can trigger emotional responses in viewers, reinforcing their connection to the local culture.

(3) Sculpture and Social Interaction

As a medium of social interaction, sculpture fosters emotional resonance and the exchange of ideas with its audience through its distinct artistic form. This role is manifested on several levels: firstly, sculpture can transform abstract social issues into tangible forms, making them subjects of public discourse (Herder, 2011); secondly, the spatial characteristics of sculpture create spaces for both individual expression and group communication within the public sphere; and thirdly, the symbolic elements embedded in sculpture reflect social values, historical contexts, and prevailing social trends. This paper examines the potential and mechanisms of sculpture as a medium of social interaction in the context of globalization, starting from the definition of sculpture as an art form.

Sculpture is increasingly significant in contemporary society. With the rapid pace of urbanization, the expansion of public spaces, and the proliferation of social media, sculpture is not only appreciated as an art form but also serves as a vehicle for cultural expression and intellectual exchange. Through its unique visual qualities and symbolism, sculpture brings abstract social issues to the forefront of public conversation. Furthermore, the spatial properties of sculpture provide venues for individual expression and collective

communication in the public realm. As such, the function of sculpture as a medium for social interaction has garnered growing attention from both academia and society.

Sculpture is an art form centered on the shaping of objects, with its core emphasis on the visual presentation of space, emotion, and thought. It is not only a pursuit of beauty but also a reflection on life and a critique of social issues. In the public domain, the spatial characteristics of sculpture grant it a unique function: it is not merely the product of artistic creation but also a vessel for social memory, reflecting the values and cultural context of a particular era (Raffle, 2008). As a medium of social interaction, the role of sculpture is manifested in several key ways: (1) it triggers emotional resonance in the audience through its symbolic elements while simultaneously providing an open space for the public to express their thoughts and feelings; (2) sculpture preserves the social memory of a specific time, encapsulating the cultural values and societal trends of that period, thereby becoming a cultural symbol. In public spaces, sculpture is not only an embodiment of individual artistic creation but also serves as a mode of collective expression. Through its diverse forms of expression—such as shape, color, and material—it acts as a bridge for communication and understanding among different groups.

As a form of visual art, sculpture serves a unique function in cultural inheritance, social memory, and emotional expression. In the era of globalization, with the acceleration of urbanization, the expansion of public spaces, and the rise of social media, the role of sculpture in the public sphere has become increasingly significant (Banerjee, 2001). It is not merely the product of artistic creation but also a reflection of social values, capable of conveying specific social attitudes and cultural spirits.

In public spaces, sculpture acts as a bridge for communication and understanding among diverse groups through its varied forms of expression, such as shape, color, and material. For instance, street sculptures can highlight concerns about social phenomena through symbolic elements, while public artworks often engage audiences through interactivity and openness (Murwonugroho, 2019). The function of sculpture extends beyond emotional resonance, encompassing areas such as cultural identity and social critique.

In the context of globalization, public art, as an emerging form of artistic expression, has increasingly attracted the attention of both academia and society. In contrast to private art, public art possesses a greater social influence and dissemination power. Sculpture, as a prominent form of public art, plays a significant role in the public sphere. The symbolic elements within sculpture—such as depictions of natural scenes or humanistic images—have the capacity to evoke emotional resonance in the audience and stimulate reflection on social issues (Taracha, 2012). Many public sculptures incorporate interactive spaces or participatory elements, encouraging viewers to actively engage in the artistic process, thereby fostering the notion that "the audience is the artist."

Overall, sculpture, as a medium of social interaction, holds an irreplaceable role in the globalized context. It not only enhances the public's cultural awareness and spiritual involvement, but also provides opportunities for diverse social groups to communicate and develop mutual understanding.

Methodology

This study aims to investigate public knowledge and perceptions regarding the cultural significance of urban public sculptures through interviews. By engaging with interviewees from diverse backgrounds, the research explores the function and cultural value of urban public sculptures within public spaces, as well as their impact on residents' cultural experiences. Additionally, the study integrates field observations and data analysis to provide first-hand information that supports the research.

The interviews were conducted with four distinct groups, totaling 20 participants: (1) Local residents—individuals from various neighborhoods, particularly those who frequently interact with urban public sculptures. Their insights help reveal direct perceptions and cultural understandings of these artworks. (2) Artists and cultural scholars—professional artists and scholars specializing in sculpture art, providing expert perspectives on the interpretation of sculpture culture. (3) Tourists and visitor groups—visitors who engage with urban public sculptures, offering insights into public perceptions of their cultural and social significance. (4) Community managers—city officials or community leaders who contribute viewpoints on the management and preservation of urban public sculptures.

The interviews focus on participants' perceptions of the cultural value of urban public sculptures, including their artistic significance, social functions, and historical heritage. Additionally, the study collects recommendations and opinions on the protection and management of these sculptures.

Results and Discussions

By combining the results of the interviews, this paper has the following findings. Urban public space serves as a crucial medium for the development of human civilization, encompassing various functions such as social interaction, cultural transmission, and emotional exchange. Within this context, sculpture, as a distinctive art form, holds not only aesthetic value but also profound cultural significance. It serves not only as a medium for artistic expression but also as a shared emotional support and spiritual symbol for urban residents. The cultural significance of sculpture in urban public spaces is multifaceted: it is both a form of visual art and an essential vehicle for cultural heritage, social education, and emotional resonance (Taracha, 2012). Through the thoughtful use and preservation of urban public sculpture, the objectives of cultural exchange, social harmony, and cultural revitalization can be more effectively achieved.

Sculpture has the power to evoke emotional resonance in its audience. The emotions and experiences conveyed through this art form offer viewers a moment of peace and solace amidst the hustle and bustle of city life. Furthermore, sculpture can act as a collective emotional anchor for citizens. Many urban public sculptures are meticulously designed and artistically crafted, becoming not only focal points of visual interest but also significant carriers of emotional communication within the community (Sabour et al., 2015). By sharing their responses to these sculptures, individuals can foster a deep sense of cultural identity within public spaces. As a vital component of human civilization, sculpture also functions as a repository of heritage and memory in urban public spaces. Many public sculptures in cities are imbued with rich historical context and cultural significance, serving not only as

witnesses to the city's developmental history but also as symbols of the continuity of its cultural legacy.

However, in the context of globalization, the relationship between local identity and sculpture faces both new challenges and opportunities. On one hand, globalization has increased the frequency of cultural exchanges and integration, raising the stakes for the formation of local identity. On the other hand, the advancement of digital technologies offers new possibilities for the artistic expression of sculpture, while also providing fresh perspectives on the protection and transmission of local culture (Bakreski, 2022). Additionally, as cultural exchanges deepen, the meanings and functions of sculpture in different cultural contexts are evolving. For example, in Japan, modern artists create sculptures by blending traditional and contemporary elements, as a means of honoring both cultural heritage and innovation. In contrast, in Africa, sculpture not only serves as a vital expression of religious beliefs but also plays a significant role in social life. From a cross-cultural perspective, the relationship between sculpture and local identity exhibits diverse characteristics. The functions and meanings of sculpture differ across cultural contexts; for instance, in North American indigenous cultures, sculpture is not only integral to religious ceremonies but also serves as a medium for emotional communication among family members, while in South America, sculptures are often exchanged as gifts to convey sentiments toward loved ones.

Looking forward, as urbanization accelerates and societal needs evolve, the question of how sculpture can enhance its cultural significance in urban public spaces will become an important area for further exploration. Only through continuous innovation and exploration can this unique art form fully realize its potential in the development of urban culture, infusing new vitality into the sustainable growth of cities.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

The conclusions drawn from this research are as follows. First, as an essential art form in urban public space, sculpture plays a unique and significant role in shaping the city's image, preserving culture and spirit, and evoking citizens' emotions. Through its visual appeal and profound symbolism, sculpture not only enhances the artistic atmosphere of the city but also serves as a bridge between its historical and future cultural ties. In the context of globalization, the function of urban public spaces is continuously expanding, and sculpture, as a cultural symbol, is influencing the lifestyles and social interactions of urban residents with its distinctive charm. It is not only a product of artistic creation but also a vessel for cultural heritage and social memory, offering individuals a moment of peace and solace amidst the bustle of urban life.

Secondly, as a carrier of the urban cultural image, sculpture is indispensable to the city. It functions not only as a form of visual art but also as a repository for cultural memory, emotional expression, and social values. Thirdly, as a carrier of local identity, sculpture plays an irreplaceable role in the formation and development of local culture. It is not merely a visual symbol but also a vital means of emotional expression and cultural preservation. As globalization progresses and social development deepens, the study of the relationship between sculpture and local identity will become increasingly important.

Future research could further investigate the spatial layout and functional design of urban public sculptures within different cultural contexts, as well as their impact on citizens' emotional resonance and community identity. Additionally, with the advancement of digital technology, exploring how to integrate traditional sculpture with modern technological innovations to introduce more diverse forms of cultural expression into urban public spaces is an avenue worth deeper exploration. Through sustained attention and innovation, the cultural significance of sculpture in urban public spaces will undoubtedly play an increasingly vital role in the development of cities.

Recommendation

This paper offers the following recommendations for governments, creators of sculpture, and researchers. For, policymakers, in the process of urban planning, attention should be paid to the combination of sculpture and the function of public space, so that it is not only a decorative object but also a cultural carrier. The government and social organizations can promote the further development of urban sculpture culture by supporting artistic creation and holding cultural activities.

For creators of sculpture, With the development of technology, virtual reality technology may become a new way to shape the cultural image of cities. Researchers can explore how to realize deeper cultural expression in cities through virtual sculpture. In addition, the function of urban sculpture is not only limited to artistic creation, but also involves cultural policy making and social service provision. In the future, we can further explore how to optimize the role of urban sculpture through policy guidance and community participation.

Furthermore, researchers can explore how sculpture can fulfill its role in various local cultural contexts, such as examining how modern artworks can deepen people's understanding of local culture. With the advancement of virtual reality and digital technology, the artistic expression of sculpture is undergoing significant transformation. Future research could focus on integrating traditional sculpture culture into modern society, enhancing people's sense of cultural identity through digital innovations. In the context of globalization, the protection of local culture and the promotion of cultural diversity through sculpture art represent critical areas of study. Researchers can further investigate the unique role and potential of sculpture in cultural preservation.

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