

Burning Mind

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Redness usually makes people involuntarily thinking of fire, which is bright, dancing and endless. You can never imagine what a huge energy embedding in that burning fire and what a wonderful miracle created by that burning fire. Porcelain is an art of fire, an art of solitude as well. For people, who shows special favor for porcelain, always has more trust in divine providence, more love for tranquility, and is more loyal to his inner heart.

When immediate love happens between man and objects, it is always hard for you to stop such affection. And this is very like my meeting with ceramics.

Though my major is applied art, I abandoned it immediately after the graduation from university and took tele-communication business as my career for practical purpose. Then the business grew bigger and bigger. When I made a moderately success, I closed several branch shops simultaneously for the only reason that this was not the ideal life for me. Several years later, my long cherished art dream was woken up again accidentally during my visiting an ceramic exhibition held in Qingdao International Convention Center. So the things happened naturally: founding my own studio and establishing a jade kiln wood fire base smoothly. I became my beloved porcelain man. Up to today, I have deep gratitude for the good luck, such as right choice at right time and the help offered by the powerful. But in fact, success is not a coincidence. “Good faith due to open stone” and “The harder, the luckier”, which are great saying about success philosophy.

Fortune is hard to come by

Porcelain is a very special art. Five elements-metal, wood, water, fire and earth, are all indispensable to this art and these characteristics are not possessed by other art. For me, the wood kiln's charm lies in the uncertain results of the works being fired. The dancing flames produce varying effects on the porcelain body; even it is the same shape. Comparing to the stability of gas kiln and electric kiln, the firing time, the weather, the wind force and the atmospheric pressure all have great impact on the colour of the works. Many kiln changes come by and happen naturally.

Firing wood kiln is a happy event. When firing, we close the kiln gate with bricks and can not see our works. From then on, you can exert no influence on the many things. Each time we held a celebration with many kowtows, burning incense and spraying of good wine to pray for excellent works.

However, pious attitude and much attention to details do not always ensure satisfactory results. Perhaps this is fate. Such unlucky cases make me disappointed and sorrowful especially when stricken by the thought that those improvised works are very difficulty to reduplicate. Any flaw in the procedures will cause the pervious efforts be wasted. So very procedures are performed with great care. Since the chance of making ideal work in wood kiln is very little, once an excellent work comes into birth, it is very valuable.

Pains accompanied by enjoyment

With regard to making porcelain, I strictly adhere to my own principles, that is: all procedures, including the preparation of mud, making, painting, carving, decoration, glazing and last firing, are performed by myself. I firmly believe that the work can not be infused with the artist's soul and can not carry the artist's thought well without artist's own effort.

I joke that I had a fond of playing firing since childhood and never thought of dealing with firing becoming part of my daily life. For many friends who came to burning kiln casting a piece

of wood were just for fun. Porcelain is an art of fire, which eventually expresses itself in the porcelain body.

Due to the fact such as high cost, time-consuming and strenuous efforts of wood kiln, nowadays many wood kilns only function as decorative works after their completion. Being the only wood kiln in the whole Qingdao City, the kiln in my studio has been using so far. Every time the kiln fired, I sat at the kiln gate and kept adding wood to the fire. Sometimes the firing lasted for over 40 hours.

Since firing kiln is a sweaty work, it is not convenient for me to wipe the beads of perspiration stood on the head. Contact lens is the best choice for my short-sighted eyes. After long year's staying up and high temperature baking, my eyes are very dry. I have to endure these stabbing pains at night. Lumbar muscle strain, periarthrosis of shoulder and finger injury resulted from high intensity of work are very common. And I enjoy the feeling: Pains are accompanied by enjoyment.

Artistic conception means mental mood

Although blue & white porcelains are highly treasured by collectors, I prefer porcelains and celadons with little decoration, which are natural, attractive and plain. I think it is more natural to express something with the properties of porcelain so my works are applied with as little glaze as possible and sometimes fingerprints are not rubbed off. As the Vice Secretary General of Qingdao Ceramic Art Association, the whole Jade Kiln team and I are focusing on the propagating the culture of wood-fire and clay and calling for more concerns about the very essence of the porcelains rather than its investment value only.

Long time engagement in making porcelain, I prefer a tranquil life and can also enjoy the solitude. When making tea pot, the thought of what I feel with a teapot in my hands and the elegant arc formed by decanting tea water make me quiet. For the future, I decide to devote all my remaining life to porcelain. I just want to keep going on and to be a true porcelain man.



