

THE ROLE OF EMBROIDERY ART IN TRADITIONAL CRAFTS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE AS CULTURAL HERITAGE

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Annotation: Folk applied art, particularly embroidery, is an integral part of our national culture. Embroidery is not only a decorative art but also a significant form of cultural heritage that reflects the customs, values, and history of our people. This article provides a scholarly analysis of the origins of embroidery, its role in society, and its adaptation to the modern era.

Keywords: embroidery, decorative art, craftsmanship, ornamentation, creativity.

Applied art has long served as the foundation of traditional folk craftsmanship. Indeed, the historical roots of Uzbek folk crafts have developed on the basis of applied art, encompassing an ancient and classical heritage shaped by the centuries-old experiences of our ancestors. This rich cultural legacy, both vibrant and diverse, continues to amaze and inspire. Historical sources indicate that humankind's earliest steps toward a better life and cultural expression began in the primitive era [1:121].

Today, applied art is not limited to its aesthetic and functional significance; it also plays an important role in the education and upbringing of the younger generation [2:135]. In this regard, embroidery – one of the major branches of applied art – occupies a unique and invaluable place.

Artistic embroidery is one of the most widespread forms of Uzbek decorative craftsmanship. Through the skillful hands of embroidery masters, intricate and imaginative patterns are stitched together, creating exquisite examples of national craftsmanship. Since ancient times, craftswomen have captivated hearts through their artistic embroidery. The origins of this art form trace back to a distant past and are deeply intertwined with the cultural history of the Uzbek people.

The lifestyle, traditions, and customs of female artisans, along with their deep compassion for all living beings, find expression in their work – fusing creative imagination with technical mastery [3]. Artistic embroidery not only reflects national culture but also continues to influence modern life. Each motif and color represents a unique fragment of our values and history.

Through their creativity, artisans reveal the spirit and beauty of the Uzbek people. Therefore, artistic embroidery plays a vital role in preserving and advancing the cultural heritage of our nation.

Archaeological findings indicate that embroidery has ancient roots among nearly all cultures. These discoveries show that embroidery developed in close connection with climate, natural conditions, and environment, evolving alongside each nation's culture, art, and types of craftsmanship under the influence of these factors [4:249].

Moreover, embroidery serves as a means of preserving a people's historical heritage and traditional values. The embroidery styles of different cultures are distinguished by their unique characteristics, which reflect their way of life and aesthetic development. Through archaeological research, it is possible to gain valuable insights into the evolution of embroidery

and its significance in social life. This, in turn, reveals how the art of embroidery demonstrates intercultural connections and shared heritage.

In studying embroidery, it is essential to consider its ancient origins. Through the art of embroidery, the Uzbek people have created spiritual and aesthetic expressions for centuries. The earliest examples of embroidery date back to pre-modern times, each reflecting aspects of daily life, traditions, lifestyle, and cultural heritage.

Embroidery holds significant importance in the cultural life of the people. It appears not only on garments but also in various ceremonial contexts. For instance, embroidered items are prepared for wedding attire, national holidays, and celebratory events. Through this art form, traditional values, aesthetic beauty, and their deeper meanings are conveyed to younger generations.

Over the centuries, the Uzbek people have accumulated immense cultural and spiritual wealth. Among the most developed forms of Uzbek folk applied decorative arts are: ornamental painting (naqqoshlik), plaster carving (ganchkorlik), wood carving, stone cutting, bone carving, metal engraving (kandakorlik), blade craftsmanship, jewelry-making, and embroidery. These art forms, with their unique schools, techniques, and masters, were once at risk of disappearing during the Soviet era.

Today, in our independent republic, new opportunities have emerged to preserve, appreciate, and practically apply the applied decorative arts that our people have cultivated over centuries through creative labor. These traditions now serve as powerful tools for enhancing the aesthetic taste of young people and educating them to become culturally refined individuals.

Renowned scholars, poets, and artists such as Al-Farabi, Abu Rayhan Beruni, Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al-Khwarizmi, Imam Bukhari, Bahauddin Naqshband, Ahmad Yassawi, Alisher Navoi, Kamoliddin Behzod, and Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur all called for the pursuit of beauty [5:18]. They worked to enrich the human spirit and elevate society through art and science.

Restoring and promoting the cultural heritage of the Uzbek people is our duty today. Through this effort, we can introduce future generations to these beautiful traditions and ensure their continuity.

Utilizing the aesthetic and pedagogical views of Eastern thinkers yields a twofold benefit. The first aspect involves the direct cultural and historical significance of our ancestors and their intellectual, spiritual, and artistic legacy. Drawing upon this heritage fosters a sense of patriotism and national pride among the younger generation by nurturing respect for their forebears.

The second aspect is didactic in nature: the scholarly legacy of these great thinkers serves as a valuable resource for enriching the content of contemporary art education and reinforcing its national and historical foundations. Thus, expanding the educational potential of modern art instruction becomes imperative [6:8].

As a result, young learners not only develop aesthetic taste and artistic thinking, but also gain a deeper understanding of national and universal values. Integrating the works of Eastern philosophers into the educational process helps instill a sense of national identity and contributes to the development of students' critical thinking and analytical skills.

In the modern era, embroidery has been enriched with new techniques and materials. Prominent artists and designers are blending traditional styles with contemporary trends to create innovative products. This approach has contributed to the recognition of embroidery on a

global scale. For instance, embroidery is now used as a design element in contemporary interior spaces.

Innovative approaches play a crucial role in the development of modern embroidery. By involving master artisans in various programs and workshops, educating the younger generation, and reviving traditional techniques, it is possible to popularize this art form. Preliminary analyses and research also help in understanding the various stages and current state of embroidery art.

Embroidery holds a distinctive place within the realm of folk applied arts and plays an important role in preserving our cultural heritage and traditions. For future generations in Uzbekistan, it is essential to study embroidery traditions as a way to connect with their historical roots. While preserving ancient heritage, embroidery continues its evolution by adapting to contemporary demands.

One of the unique aspects of embroidery, closely tied to its artistic content, is the appropriate selection of color. Embroidery is intrinsically linked to color. When choosing threads, it is important to understand color intensity and how colors interact with each other [7:91]. The proper selection of colors enhances the visual beauty of embroidery and deepens its conceptual meaning. Each color conveys specific emotions and meanings, making the artist's skill in harmonizing them essential [8]. Through careful color coordination, embroidery masters create visually pleasing and emotionally uplifting compositions. These elements reflect the uniqueness and artistic richness of embroidery.

Embroidery serves not only as an art form but also fulfills important social functions. In the lifestyle of the Uzbek people, embroidery traditions are evident in solemn occasions, celebrations, and various rituals. For instance, during weddings, the bride and groom's garments are traditionally adorned with Uzbek embroidery. This not only adds aesthetic value to the ceremony but is also believed to bring prosperity and happiness to the couple's future life.

Embroidery is largely practiced by women, which grants them a means of economic independence. Teaching embroidery to future generations and increasing women's participation in this art contributes to promoting gender equality. Through their traditional craft, women are empowered and gain visibility and recognition in society.

In the present day, embroidery holds significant economic value in addition to its cultural importance. The production and sale of embroidered goods for national and international markets contribute to the further development of Uzbek embroidery. In the field of tourism, embroidery is introduced to visitors through various tours and cultural programs, enhancing its visibility and appreciation. To ensure the future growth of this art form, new approaches and strategic developments are essential. Strengthening educational systems among young artists and embroidery specialists in Uzbekistan, and teaching embroidery techniques, are key to preserving and advancing the nation's cultural heritage [10]. The introduction of innovative methods, experiential workshops, and cultural events in the field of embroidery plays a crucial role in acquainting future generations with this art form and supporting its expansion. Embroidery is not only a cultural heritage but also holds distinct social and economic significance. It promotes creativity and spiritual development by preserving the customs and values of the Uzbek people. Uzbek embroidery has the potential to become a globally recognized art form, blending tradition and modernity [11].

Each embroidered pattern, stitch, and color carries centuries-old traditions and stories, making embroidery one of the essential components that reflect the richness of Uzbek culture [12-13]. As this art is passed down from generation to generation, it plays a vital role in shaping

national identity. Through embroidery, the Uzbek people continue to express their customs, heritage, and cultural practices, ensuring the art's relevance and continuity in both traditional and modern contexts.

In the modern era, the necessity of incorporating innovations into the art of embroidery has become increasingly evident [12]. The combination of traditional patterns with contemporary fashion trends, timely renewal of embroidered products, and the experimentation with novel approaches all contribute to the further development of this art form. In addition, digital technologies have opened up new avenues in embroidery, offering opportunities for remote learning through online platforms.

In Uzbekistan, various organizational programs, exhibitions, and festivals are being held to promote the development of embroidery. Such events provide artisans with the chance to showcase their work, exchange experiences, and implement new creative ideas. Furthermore, to increase young people's interest in embroidery, specialized courses and seminars are being organized. The engagement, interest, and support of the broader community play a vital role in the progress of this art.

Local and international brands also contribute by promoting embroidery in their marketing efforts, helping raise global awareness of this cultural heritage. As a result, embroidery, with its rich historical background and cultural depth, has the potential to attract a wider audience worldwide.

This clearly demonstrates the refined and unparalleled aesthetic significance of our national art [9]. In every region of the country, schools and colleges dedicated to applied arts have been established. The primary goal is to acquaint the younger generation with our national art. A spiritually elevated generation, well-versed in modern science and technology, and deeply connected to the rich cultural heritage of their ancestors, will remain resilient against any external ideological or cultural influences. The future of a nation that nurtures such a generation is undoubtedly bright and promising [8:129].

These individuals will achieve remarkable results in the fields of culture and science, further illuminating the future of their nation. They will value the legacy of their forebears and strive selflessly to create new opportunities for the coming generations. Moreover, by integrating modern knowledge and technology, such a generation will enhance the intellectual development of society and contribute to greater socio-economic stability.

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