

Contemporary phrasing of folk symbols for a woven that combines between hand woven and added weave

Assist. Prof. Dr. Reham Adel Ayad

Associate Professor of Textiles at the Department of Artistic Crafts and Heritage

Faculty of Art Education –Minia University, Egypt

drrehamadel2020@gmail.com

Summary

Folklore heritage is rich in many types of folk creativity which can be a rich material. Folk art is the art that used to express heritage and civilization of peoples. Heritage is also a tangible expression of the roots of visual culture, that continuous living memory in its forms and symbols which constitutes a factor of belonging, as it expresses the spirit and authenticity of the past and transmits customs and traditions of the society.

The symbol is considered one of the most important features of folk art. We rarely find a popular artwork, except for the symbol in it relates to a topic in the life of the folk artist, its customs, traditions, and society. The symbol is artificially an authentic language used by the folk artist to express his feelings taking on a special character bearing the values and intellect of a community.

The field of textiles is one of the areas that seek to take an interest in the heritage arts and formulate its units in a contemporary technical dialogue that adds a modern artistic vision to the work. This field has evolved significantly in form and content (7: 17). The textile works began to evolve and emerge from the traditional framework into new and developed forms, one of the manifestations of this development is the revolution of hand-woven art to free from the domination of traditional and familiar styles and materials, and becoming a trend in researches and experimentations. Artists of hand woven of the 20th century seek to detecting new solutions and create innovative structure and textural relationships through integration not simply addition or deletion, there is no art or innovation without experimentation. Experimental though is at the heart of technical experience, as it seeks to find innovative solutions and to create a range of variables and formulations that will bring new additions that contribute to enriching the artistic fields in general and the textile field in particular.

Therefore, the researcher believes it would take experimentation to combine the aesthetics of hand woven with the added weave using the remaining fabrics and threads to reveal the artistic and aesthetic connections. This can only be achieved by using experimentation in art which introduces different and unfamiliar alternative solutions with aesthetic nature by combining handwoven with the added weave styles in a new textile formulation which seek to take an interest in traditional art and reformulate their units in a technical dialogue that combines its origins with the contemporary ones and adds a modern artistic vision to textile works.

Research Problem

The current research seeks to understand and deepen the folk symbols and formulate them in innovative ways to add a kind of novelty, not only in the form of the woven, but seen in the philosophical content of the textile work, where we see it with a contemporary figurative vision based on the spirit of heritage and does not stop at tradition and repetition, but seeks to find a

different mold that is outside the box of the familiar and seeks to adapt folklore thinking to modern textiles, which combine hand woven with the added weave in order to produce a variety of artistic formations and textual and colorful influences, and to deal with them with a high degree of compatibility and harmony, it also seeks to preserve the authenticity and cultural identity of the heritage.

The research problem is determined in the following main question:

How can folk symbols be used and formulated in a contemporary way to create a textile work that combines hand woven with the added weave?

The following sub-questions are derived from the previous main question:

1. What are the most important folk symbols?
2. How can the techniques of hand woven and added weave be paired?
3. How can symbolic heritage thinking be adapted to create modern textiles that combine hand woven with the added weave?

Research Aims

The current research seeks to achieve the following objectives:

1. Re-drafting the folklore in a contemporary formative style.
2. Reaching for the fine capabilities of combining the artistic values of hand woven and added weave.
3. Adapting the symbols of folklore into contemporary textiles that combine hand woven with the added weave in a new innovative system that combines authenticity and contemporaneity.

Research Importance

The importance of this research is due to:

1. Rooting folk art and its symbols in order to preserve the Egyptian identity and folklore.
2. Benefiting from experimentation and the philosophy of combining the technical methods of hand woven and added weave.
3. Presenting a new fine formulation for the symbols of folk art in contemporary textiles that combine hand woven and added weave.

Research Hypotheses

The research seeks to verify the validity of the following hypothesis:

- It is possible to benefit from the formulation of folk symbols, a contemporary fine formulation, to make textile work that combines hand woven and added weave.

Research Limits

1. The current research is limited to the study of some popular symbols such as (the palm, the crescent, the bride, the eye, the rhombus triangle, and the zigzag) to find out the most important characteristics and connotations of these symbols that can be used formally.
2. The research is limited to combining of textile using the plain weave 1/1, the file, the wefts, sumac style, the pulled buttonholes, and techniques of added weave to enrich the textile surface.

3. The research uses pieces of added weave from the remaining-colored fabrics, as well threads, beads, sequins and buttons.
4. The use of frame looms in the implementation of textile work.
5. The research was applied to students of the second year in 2019 - Faculty of Art Education - Minia University within the hours of an experimental studies course in textile structures.

Research Method

Research Methodology

The current research follows the following approaches:

⇒ **Descriptive Analytical Approach**

- The researcher uses the descriptive-analytical approach in: Describing and analyzing some popular symbols to reach the most important characteristics and connotations that can be benefited from.
- Also, to describe the methods of the added weave and its fixation on the textile work performed on the frame loom.

⇒ **Semi-experimental approach**

- The researcher uses the quasi-experimental approach to create a student experiment to take advantage of popular symbols and formulate them in a contemporary way to make a textile work that combines hand woven and added weave.

Research Terms

Contemporary phrasing

Phrasing: The term phrasing is one of the complex terms that combines two concepts, the concept of phrasing and the concept of contemporary, phrasing is “an attempt to find the right garb for an idea or emotion, and the process of controlling relationships for this idea and this emotion. Seamless relationships require all the elements of formation (line, shape, and color) to be moved to the most appropriate position where they can play their role in the overall picture in an integrated manner”, and this means that the phrasing is the brainchild of the artist and is concerned with rules and regulations only at the discretion of the artist's creator, as they produce experiences and visions of the artist, so they are unique. Phrasing is an idea that the artist formulates by creating an interaction between the elements of the artwork, causing an overlap of fine relations, which results in an integrated artwork that has its own characteristics and is different from other works (3: 224)

Contemporary: The definition and meaning of contemporary in the comprehensive dictionary meanings that it is living the present with conscience and behavior and benefiting from all its scientific and intellectual achievements and harnessing them to serve the human being and his advancement(١٣) .

Procedural definition of the concept of phrasing is the vision to reshape, arrange and organize the work elements into an integrated system and the distinctive imprint of each artwork separately, and contemporary is to present this system in a form that matches the language of the era with a new vision .

Folk Symbols

Technically, symbols are a fine language that the artist uses to express his feelings and emotions that form the ideas and beliefs of his environmental legacies and the artistic unit that

the artist chooses from his surroundings and environment (6:4). There are many popular symbols such as palm, eye, lion, palm tree, triangle, diamond... and others.

Woven Articraft

A procedural definition that is intended in this research is that of the woven textiles folded into a different mold that departs from the boundaries of the norm and seeks to combine the two styles of hand woven and added weave in new fine formulations that seek to pay attention to heritage arts and reformulate its symbols in a technical dialogue that combines authenticity and contemporaneity.

Added weave, Appliqué

It is an ancient Egyptian art that was unique in Egypt, which is adding small pieces of fabric to a large area different from it in color and often in material, by fixing them with a sewing needle and with different stitches.

In Europe, this method of embroidery has many names due to its multiple decorative forms. It is known as the appliqué work and it is known as Reserved-Technique or Patch work.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is divided into:

First: The design aspect: It depends on symbols of folk art.

Second: the technical aspect: It depends on: Combining the weaving style using various textures and techniques.

And the method of added weave with its different techniques, using the remains of colored fabrics.

Third: The philosophical aspect: It depends on originality in thinking and contemporary in artistic formation by drawing inspiration and formulating designs from the symbols of popular art for a contemporary textile work, while at the same time striving to preserve the originality and cultural heritage.

Results

1. Folk symbols are an important source of heritage because of the fine features and artistic and aesthetic values they carry.
2. The two styles of hand woven and added weave between them consisted of the presence of common structural characteristics, as both of them can emphasize fine and expressive characteristics of the textile work.
3. It was possible to benefit from the combination of hand woven and added weave in a new technical dialogue that enriches the artistic formation of the textile work.
4. Adapting the thought of folklore into textile works with a contemporary artistic vision that possesses the elements of innovation and does not deviate from the cultural and heritage reality around us.

Recommendations

1. Contributing to the process of rooting and protecting popular symbols from extinction.
2. Suggesting new entrances related to the essence of popular symbols and introducing plastic formulations on them that carry artistic and aesthetic values while preserving their originality in a manner that suits the requirements of society.

3. Emphasizing the importance of experimenting with materials and using different methods, such as the added weave, in a new dialogue that enriches the artistic formation of the textile work.
4. Encouraging students to search for new and unique solutions, such as using the added weave and merging it with the hand woven to enrich the surface of the textile work .