

# 陶藝在公共空間中的表現

人類從飄忽不定的遊牧生活，逐漸演變成居有定所的農耕時代，同族人民聚居一起形成部落，開始了最初的社會形態。在共同的居住環境中，人們爲了生活上的便利與需要，而鋪設道路、開闢廣場；爲了祭祀神靈與信仰活動，而設置祭壇、建設教堂。這些爲人們共同活動的場所，便是公共空間。

隨著人類生活環境的改善與居住品質的提昇，人們共同使用的空間也更形多樣化。在當今的生活空間之中，較大者如：公園、廣場、車站、機場、學校；較小者如：路口、街角、電話亭、水池旁、圍牆邊等，都是人來人往的重要公共場所，成爲現代人們共同生活的重心。因此，就今日的生活形態而言：凡是提供多數人生活、作息、運動、休閒的室內、戶外空間，均可稱之爲公共空間。

從人類社會發展的歷史中可觀察出：不論朝代的更替、經濟活動的演變，由人類共同居住所架構出來的公共空間，始終是整個社會作息的重心。當政者利用公共空間以宣導政令、宗教家利用公共空間宣揚教義、文化工作者在公共空間推展文化活動、而藝術家則在公共空間展現其藝術才華。因此，公共空間除了爲人類生活提供必要性與便利性之外，它也是提供人際交流、政教宣導、資訊傳遞與文化傳承的重要場所。在公共空間中，爲了達到特定的目的，而透過彩繪、塑造、雕刻等美術形式，所呈現出來的具體產物便是公共藝術。

早期的公共藝術，大部分是依附在建築物與其周邊的設施之上，強調建築物的裝飾美感；而其他則以人物雕像的形式，表現有關人類活動的故事，在這個時期的藝術家是爲政治、宗教的目的，從事公共藝術的創作。到了近代，由於新的藝術思潮興起，藝術家開始以表現自我的方式從事創作，而公共藝術的作品也逐漸出現個人風格的表現。

不論早期以建築物爲主體的公共藝術作品，或近代以追求藝術家個人風格表現的公共藝術作品，在用於表現作品的材質上，皆十分講究作品在設置場所環境上的考量，尤其重視材料的物理特性，使作品既能充分表達意念內涵，又可長期屹立於公共空間之中。一般說來，由於石材的取得容易，材質種類繁多，而又具有厚重的量感與不易風化的特性，所以是最常被使用於建築與公共藝術作品上的材料。而近年來由於金屬鑄造與煉鋼製鐵技術的進步，利用金屬材料製作公共藝術作品的例子也逐年增加。

陶瓷材料由於其堅硬的質地與不滲水的特性，早已在建築上大量使用，尤其是陶瓷材料易於成形，方便做出凹凸質感紋飾，以及具有豐富多變的釉藥色彩，能使建築物的外觀有如穿著彩衣一般，華麗多彩。同時，陶瓷在歷經高溫燒成之後，成爲性質頗爲穩定的物質，能耐雨水侵蝕，風化速度也極爲緩慢，所以適用於耐久的建築物與戶外空間。此外，陶瓷表層的釉彩也因高溫燒製熔融的結果，而能保持光亮鮮明的色彩，不易褪色。因此就材質而言，陶瓷材料堅硬質地、不易風化、不易褪色的特質，可說是運用於公共藝術上最理想的材料之

在公共空間中藝術作品的表現，最重要的是作品在這空間中視覺效果的呈現。作品必須在造形上具有特色、在材質上有適當的選擇、在色彩上能與周遭環境相調和，如此才能讓過往的人們駐足欣賞，進而與作品交流互動而融入作品所

形成的情境與氣氛之中。因此，如何讓作品在公共空間中，呈現作品與空間的關係、作品與人們的關係，則是藝術創作者在進行公共藝術創作時，首先必須要面對的課題。基於上述在公共空間中藝術作品表現的特質，藝術家在創作公共藝術作品時，選擇陶瓷做為創作材料，可具有下列六個優越條件：

### 一、豐富的質感表現

製作陶瓷坯體的黏土材料具有豐富的可塑性，並且軟硬適中，能輕易地在黏土表面上製作出各種圖案紋飾變化，適於以圖紋表現為主要的作品，可讓人近距離觸摸欣賞。而黏土可因組成成分的差異、熟料顆粒的粗細、以及所含金屬氧化物的不同，在燒成後會有各種不同質感與層色變化，能呈現出黏土粗樸的質感與泥土柔和溫暖的觸感。這種特性，在注重人與作品相互交流的公共藝術品表現中，最能展現人與作品的親和力與感受性。

### 二、鮮艷多彩的釉色變化

豐富的釉色，是陶瓷材料在視覺效果上最具特色的部分，在早期的建築物上，施釉陶片已有相當突出的色彩表現，而近代科技的發展，更調製出許多前所未有的鮮艷釉色，加上施釉技術的提昇與改進，不論在複雜多色的施釉處理上，或單純均勻的釉面色塊表現上，均能得到良好的控制，使得陶瓷釉色的呈現更具可看性。在講求活潑醒目的公共藝術作品上，可充分發揮色彩的魅力；也讓公共空間增添許多色彩的躍動。而陶瓷釉藥永不褪色的材質特性，也使得陶瓷藝術作品在公共空間中能歷久彌新，永遠保持鮮艷色彩。

### 三、多樣化的造形呈現

在用於製作公共藝術作品的各樣材料中，每種材料都有其材質的弱點與加工作業的限制，例如：細長的石材易於折斷毀損；平面的金屬板材不易撓曲成不規則的造形；木材則因紋理的順逆而有組織的強弱，這些限制都影響到作品的造形表現。而具有可塑性的陶瓷材料，則可任意地捏塑造形，發揮造形的可能性。較為大型的作品則可利用分割組合的方式，結合堅固的心材完成作品。因此，陶瓷材料能使作品在造形的表現上有很大的空間，讓作品在公共空間中得到更活潑自由的表現。

### 四、與環境的調合性佳

在公共空間中，藝術品如何與四周環境相互調合，是公共藝術品成敗的重要關鍵。理想的公共藝術品，必須能適應所在位置之天候、景物的變遷，也要能契合當地人文、歷史背景的對應，如此才能充分顯示出作品存在的意義。陶瓷材料能從樸質粗獷的土質原貌，演變到光亮細緻的釉面質感；也能從深沉灰暗的陶土色調，演變成光鮮亮麗的釉彩顏色，這種材質運用上的廣大空間，可讓以陶瓷製作的公共藝術作品，能充分因應公共空間的特殊需要，適切地呈現出作品最佳的造形形態，而與整個空間環境和諧共處。

### 五、製作、施工的便利性

以立體造形呈現的公共藝術作品，往往因體積龐大，所以在製作時必須使用較為寬大的空間，而以雕刻方式成形的木材、石材作品，更由於原材料的碩大厚重，必須動用重型機械與大型切割工具。高大的金屬作品也要有重型搬運、切割、焊接或鑄造設備，方可進行製作。作品完成後的移動、安裝也是工程浩

大。相形之下以陶瓷材料製作的作品，多以中空塊體或板狀結構做成，大型作品則以分割組合的方式進行製作，並分批燒製而成；施工時是以現場施工的方式，先製造成形心材，再將分割製作燒成的陶瓷塊體或陶板，依序拼貼組成完整作品。因此，不論在製作或裝置施工上，陶瓷材質的作品均有其便利性。

## 六、易於保養與維護

無論位在戶外或室內的公共藝術作品，因長期曝露在開放的空間之中，雨水、濕氣、灰塵、落葉等物質對於不同材質的作品，會造成不同的影響，例如：鬆質的石材作品易於吸水風化，生長苔蘚；木質作品容易腐朽發霉，落漆變色；金屬材質的作品則會生銹腐蝕，失去光彩。所以使用這些材質製作的作品，必須勤於保養與維護，以維持光鮮亮麗。而用陶瓷材料製作的作品，則由於歷經高溫燒成，土質燒結瓷化，所以不易滲水與附著汙染。尤其經過施釉燒成的作品，表面形成一層玻璃物質，能阻絕污垢又能防止風化，保持作品原有的光彩。因此，在於作品的保養與維護方面，陶瓷材料是有其優越的條件。

上述六項，固然是陶瓷材料運用在公共藝術作品上的優越條件，但是相對地陶瓷材質也有其明顯的缺點，例如：陶瓷材料會因高溫燒成而收縮變形，造成作品表面的不平整，作品稜線、轉角的表現亦有所不足。而以分割拼貼組合而成的作品上，板塊縫隙累累，影響造形的整體性。大型的作品由於是在現場施工拼貼組合而成，若要遷移則搬運困難。貼附在建築物上的陶壁作品，也因無法拆卸而勢必與建築物共存亡。這些缺點都必須透過藝術家的智慧與技巧，加以克服改善。唯有如此，陶瓷材料才能在公共空間中展現無比的魅力。

自古以來，陶瓷材料由於具有耐風化、防雨水而又充滿色彩的特性，而被廣泛地使用在建築物的內、外空間之中，成為建築物上不可或缺的重要材料之一。隨著人類對生活環境美化需求的增加，建築物上陶瓷材料的運用，也逐漸由保固、著色的功能轉變成美感呈現的素材，在建築空間中成為裝飾表現的主體。而時至今日，由於社會的高度發展，建築空間更形龐大而複雜，現代人對公共空間的美化要求日益迫切，「陶瓷」這種始終與人類生活相隨相伴的材料，必將以其多彩多姿的形態，在公共空間中展現迷人的風采。

# The Place of Ceramic Material in Public Art

All public places are created to meet people's needs. In every village, town, or city, roads are built to allow us to travel freely, squares are formed so we can gather for commerce, temples and churches are constructed for us to worship. Ever since human beings began to settle in agricultural community, public place has become increasingly important to our life.

Any outdoor space designated for public activities can be called public space. It can be used for transportation, transaction, and recreation, as well as for political and religious purposes. Places such as public parks, squares, stations, airports, schools, street corners, pay phones, and fountains all are important and indispensable places for us to conduct our daily life.

Public space is the center of societal life, a place for people to interact, communicate, and exchange information. Due to the rapidly changing environment and the complexity of our time, the purposes for public place have also become more diverse. Politicians use it to advocate political ideas, theologians use it to spread the message of God, and artists use it to show off their artistic talents. It is a place to evoke political movements, establish moral standards and social values, and to express aesthetic aspiration.

The concept of creating public art has gone through a drastic change throughout the course of history. Public art used to be an accessory of architecture. It is mostly built to decorate the building or to "amplify" the beauty of the architecture. Monuments and statues were built to commemorate the achievement of historical figures. Most public art was created for political or religious reasons. As for the Modernist tradition, artist is to strive for a unique and personal way of art making. He or she is free to use all kinds of media and art is made for the sake of art. This idea of personal style and expression became prominent at the turn of the century. This relentless pursuit of individualism also influences the trend for creating public art. Today more and more public art is created with very distinctive personal characteristics for a variety of reasons.

Despite the differences in style or concept, the material for public art has always been a primary concern for the artists. Stone has been widely used because of its availability and variety. It is easy to work with and it has the ability to withstand the elements. Due to the technological innovation in material science, metals have also become increasingly popular throughout the years. Ceramic material is generally used in architecture because of its hardness and ability to resist water and erosion. It is easier to model clay than stone or metal. After firing, ceramics is extremely stable and water-resistant, and its colors will remain brilliant for a long time. The effect of erosion by the elements is extremely slow. Because of these qualities, it is ideal for outdoor construction, and it has recently become a popular material for many artists to create public art projects.

Besides the overall effect, the most important characteristic of public art is the integration of the artwork and its surroundings. The material and the colors should be in accord with the environment. The interplay between the artwork and the space surrounding it is the primary element in attracting viewers' attention. The relation between the artwork and the viewers should also be carefully examined. The artist's challenge is to create an

atmosphere in which the viewers can freely interact with the artwork, so this interaction can become an important element of the whole piece. In other words, It is created so people can be "in it" to experience it, instead of "in front of it" to merely look at it.

There are several advantages of using ceramic material for public art project:

- (1) It is rich in texture and tactility. Ceramic material can provide a wide range of texture and tactility according to its metal contents, particle size, and firing temperature. It can be formed into almost any shape and its surface can be easily scratched to produce different texture and design. It is ideal for public artwork that requires people's touch as an essential element of interacting with the artwork.
- (2) It is rich in colors and radiance. Glazing is one of the most important processes for creating ceramic works. Different kinds of glaze can produce a great variety of colors and glow. Thanks to the technological innovation in both firing and glazing, more and more brilliant colors are available to us today. In addition to its richness in colors, its durability makes it a perfect medium for those who wish to add colors to an outdoor public space.
- (3) It is easy to form and work with. Because of its flexibility, ceramic material can be used to form a wide range of forms and shapes. Small pieces. Its flexibility and durability far exceed other material such as stone or metal. It gives the artist more freedom and choices to create different kinds of artworks. The possibility is limitless.
- (4) It can be easily fit into the environment. Since it comes directly from the earth, ceramic material is closely related to our environment and it contains a rich earthy quality. From unglazed stoneware to high-fired glaze, it provides a great variety of colors and surface akin to our surroundings. This quality makes it an ideal material for environment-oriented public art.
- (5) It is low in production cost and easy to construct. Since large ceramic pieces can be constructed by combining smaller sections, it greatly reduces the cost for production and transportation. Unlike large metal or stone public artwork, which requires large working space to produce and assemble, ceramic pieces can be constructed in relatively small separately, then shipped to the location for installation. Compare to other material, it is far more convenient and cost efficient.
- (6) It is resistant to elements and easy to maintain. After glazing and firing, ceramic material is resistant to water, wind, heat, moisture erosion. Its glazing can prevent growing fungus and fading color. Certain class-like glaze can also prevent dust accumulation on its surface and therefore makes it easy to clean and maintain.

Despite of all the advantages, there are some shortcomings for ceramic material as well. The shrinkage caused by high firing often creates uneven surface and edges. The coloration can be inconsistent because of the glazing or firing, once it is installed, a large-scale work is hard to dismantle for transportation or relocation. It takes tremendous



ingenuity and skills to overcome these problems, and precisely because of these shortcomings, it makes the use of ceramic material in public art more challenging and rewarding.

Ceramic material has always been widely used for architecture. It is an invaluable part of our daily life, and it has been an essential substance in our effort to create a better environment and to enrich our life. Since we live in an ever-changing world of extreme complexity and diversity, and we are blessed with a relentless drive to better our life both materially and culturally, I am certain that ceramic material will definitely play a significant part in our life and shine brilliantly in the future.

**Associate Professor of  
Department of Industrial Art  
International Taiwan College of Arts  
Tsen-Chou Lieu**