

## The Inquiry in to Life Through the Art of Chinese Penjing



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This research aims to explore the encounters and coexistence of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism existentialism, along with aesthetic philosophies, as the framework. Additionally, it involves comparative reflections with Western aesthetics to examine the convergence, fusion, symbiosis, and development of various schools of Chinese penjing across different temporal contexts—Sui-Tang, Song, Yuan, Ming, Qing, modern, and beyond China's borders. The study seeks to interpret the plant species, design aesthetics, and aesthetic sentiments of Chinese penjing under indigenous philosophies. It aims to reveal the sensibilities and intuitive thoughts of people from different social classes throughout Chinese history in their worldly lives, as well as their contemplations on the meaning of life. Furthermore, the research attempts to propose possibilities for the dynamic balance between the historical inheritance and development of Chinese visual culture and arts.

**Keywords:** Chinese penjing, Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Temporality, Cultural Heritage.

### Biography:

Hui Wei currently is an independent researcher located in Washington DC. She received her BA in Advertising from Nanjing University of Arts, focus on advertising culture in ancient China and her MA in Arts and Entertainment Administration from Valparaiso University, focus on art management and restoration. She also received Chinese painting and calligraphy conservation training from a national representative inheritor of intangible cultural heritage. At Tiger Hill and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Humble Administrator's Garden in Suzhou, she took part in hands-on workshops for school children, online and offline lectures on penjing conservation for adults, recruitment and training of a new generation of penjing conservators, and other activities aimed at preserving traditional culture. She has always been deeply interested and passionate about the aesthetic philosophies of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism in Chinese traditional culture and art. This enthusiasm extends particularly to areas such as Chinese garden architecture, calligraphy, seal carving, painting restoration, penjing art, Song brocade, and Chinese tea culture. While researching traditional Chinese art, she, as a producer, has also received awards for her documentary and short film works.