

Propositions

To accompany the thesis of Lili JIANG

Valuing Craftsmanship

In particular the crafting of Chinese porcelain and Dutch Delft Blue

1. Craftsmanship is not just about a product, but also about practices, i.e. practices of craftsmanship. (this thesis)
2. The research of “crafts culture” is to point out to crafts people their work is about social and cultural values in addition to the financial values. (this thesis)
3. Values of crafts and craftsmanship are realized in interactive conversations among involved people in the world of art and culture. (this thesis)
4. The value-based approach is to evaluate crafts and craftsmanship beyond the moment of exchange. (this thesis)
5. Due to the onslaught of commercial production, the traditional craftsmanship is becoming an endangered species, unless a reappraisal of the value of traditional craftsmanship is taking place. (this thesis)
6. The interest in traditional Chinese ceramics, as shown in the high price paid in auction, indicates that a reappraisal of Chinese craftsmanship is actually taking place.
7. Even if the picture of crafts culture in China is far from rosy, the picture of the Dutch situation is gloomy as a reappraisal of crafts culture still has to begin.
8. For craftspeople this thesis is a bunch of words; most will have difficulty appreciating the craftsmanship that working with words requires.
9. When considering the world crafts, the greater challenge is the conceptualization of that world; numbers tell little without a clear conceptualization
10. Working with the hands on concrete things is in the end more rewarding than working with the mind on abstract things