

Han Gan: The Horse Painter

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Abstract: *Horse is a favorite subject for many Chinese painters in Chinese history, but Han Gan was a different and unique painter who early on developed his own style and subject. Han Gan one of the most famous ancient Chinese painters devoted himself primarily to horse painting. The aim of this study is to identify the aesthetically approaches, qualities and historical values of Han Gan's horse paintings in Tang density. We will try to find out how Han Gan horses are different from others artist horses. How he becomes a famous horse painter and how he captures the energy and spirit without using more colors? After the research, we can understand "To read a painting" of the horse made by Han Gan.*

Keywords: *Horse Painting, Han Gan, Chinese Horse Painters*

Background: Art has a long history and it's full of different kind of subjects and thoughts. Most of the artist they painted only the animals, but especially artists focus on the horse, because the horse was a part of daily life in a different way like use in transportation, horse race, in war, show royalty etc. Lascaux cave also known by ancient horse cave painting, approximated 16,000 years old. But inside of caves horse figures were very simplified form. Egyptian and Greek art is also full of a different kind of horse painting. From the Renaissance Paolo Uccello, Leonardo de Vinci, Benosso Gozzoli, Albrecht, Durer, Raphael, and Titian etc they portrayed the horse in large scale. As the same in the mid 18th century, romanticism, French artists like Theodore Gericault and Eugene Delacroix were, These both artists drawn many horse images in their painting. In the 19th century Benjamin Marshall, James Ward, John Frederick Herring was a notable artist for horse painting. Edgar Degas, impressionist painter, he made a horse racing as a major subject for his artwork for that he used a horse photographic image as references, he was the first painter he used a horse photo for painting.

Many modern and contemporary artists also used the horse as major subjects for their artwork. The horse also played an important role in Chinese painting history, without horse Chinese art history cannot complete. The horse was a locally introduced in China around 5,000 years ago, especially horse painting started in the Song Dynasty and Tang Dynasty. A lot of Chinese artists made a favorite subject for their artwork, and it was very perfect for ink painting. In Chinese art history, Han Gan is known for his dynamic horse painting. Han Gan (韓幹, 韓干, ca. 715-781) was a Tang Dynasty painter, who is best remembered for his paintings of horses. The Han Gan's horse pictures got much praise in history. Han tried captured power and beauty of the horse of the Tang Dynasty through the line, color, and composition. The Han Gan's horse pictures got much admired in history. Han painted mostly fat horses; according to Du Fu, he drew the only body or meat instead of the horse bone.

Horse in Chinese culture: Horse has a deep connection with Chinese historical culture and tradition same like a yellow river. The horse came from Central Asia, Mongolia, and Tibet. As an evidence of horse comes from the "Longshan culture" According to Theory of Yi Jing horse symbolized Yin other side dragon represent Yang. In Chinese culture were six important domestic animals like cattle, sheep, dog, pig, and horse. Horses have a very respectable and high status in Chinese old and present society and culture. If we see Chinese character 馬, mǎ means the horse is a very similar look like a horse. It represents a different kind of symbolic meaning like bravery, honesty, carefulness, and power. The horse also played an important role in Chinese zodiac sign and horse. The horse is one of the 12 animals like pig, dragon, goat, dog snake etc. In the Chinese zodiac, each animal repeat after 12 years like 2014 was a horse year and 202, 1990, 1978 like every 12 year was the horse.

According to Chinese mythology the person was born in horse year, he has very strong social responsibility and they are very strong and honest for self and others. But beyond the zodiac, we can see other places where the horse shows up as an important animal in Chinese culture like a mythology, literature, architecture, etc. Chinese mythology compared horse and dragon together, these animals have the same respect in Chinese mythology, Dragon was very closely related, and both could have the capability to fly. The Longma is a combined image of horse and dragon this is one kind of Chinese mythical animal which has a great power. Tianma is also another mythological animal with strong wings, it is also known by Heavenly Horse. Many Chinese artists painted a great figure of the horse in many different styles mainly black and white Chinese ink. Many artists used the horse as symbols in painting. Ink paintings are only one kind of feature of Chinese artworks with horse images but Chinese artists also made a different kind of sculptures in different materials. In this way, the horse looks like a sign of power, respect, strength, energy, beauty, and horse has the important place in Chinese culture for a thousand years.

Horse and Tang Dynasty

In Chinese history, the Tang dynasty was the most valuable historic period and tang emperors become the most powerful in the world. During the Tang dynasty economy, culture and military developed the higher level; especially they focused on a cultural part like art, music, painting, pottery, calligraphy, literature etc. Wang Wei is known for best landscape and he was the leader of the southern school of painting. Zhou Fang was famous for his court figure painting and Wu Daozi is known for 300 murals in Buddhist and Taoist temple. This time Chinese artists developed in both way as a subject matter and different kind of different type of techniques. According to the sinologist Victor Mair the Horse in Early Chinese History, the Chinese have "a strained attachment to the horse" (Hessler 2006, 331). On one hand, Chinese emperors understood the fundamental importance of the horse to the preservation of power. They put horses on an upper platform. Sometimes horse used for

agricultural, transportation and for military power. In history Chinese economy, society, the culture was depends upon the horse. As well as they kept the horse as pets' companions. The horse also included in a lot of sports like polo. The horse was involved in everyday activities. In Tang dynasty horse has regarded as a powerful and noble animal .horse was a favorite subject and inspirations for many artists, therefore, they depicted many Chinese paintings and different art forms. During the Tang Dynasty, we can see the horse motif in Chinese mythology. The horse has the same respects as a Dragon.

The famous horse painters: the horse was a very famous subject for Chinese traditional artist. A lot of artists are famous only for their horse painting but here we tried to study a few important artists like Zhao Yong (仲穆), Zhao Mengfu 趙孟頫, Li Gonglin and Han Gan 韓干. We tried to compare Han gan horses painting to other artists. Through this process, we can understand very well Han gan horse painting quality as well as other artists painting also.

Zhao Yong: Zhao Young was born in Yuan Dynasty. Zhao Yong (1289-1360) also known by Zhongmu. He was native of Huzhou which is known by Wuxing. He was the second son of Zhao Mengfu. He learned painting from his father. His name is especially noted for saddled horses, landscapes, and figures painting. He was also a well-known connoisseur. His extant works include "Ride in spring and man on horseback". Inside "the Ride in spring" painting one man riding a one horse. The composition of a horse and figure below a tree was popular in Tang dynasty painting. The composition of the painting is very simple with two tree and sloping field. the artist first he drawn with light black ink then painted with colors and shades, while the tree is contoured and then filled in with colors, neat and exquisite. He was famous for his fine brushwork quality. "Ride in spring and man on horseback" is Painting located at national palace museum of Taipei. This painting we can see in a hanging scroll which is made by natural color on silk.

Zhao Mengfu: he is also known by Chao Meng-fu his courtesy name Ziang. He is a famous Chinese painter and calligrapher. Guan Daosheng was his wife; she was also a skillful poet, painter, and calligrapher. Zhao Yong was his second son, he was known as a famous painter and calligrapher. He has been honored as a position of the master within the tradition of literati painters. In his artwork, he always focused on personal expression rather than the representation of nature. Zhao is remembered as a painter of horses like the hang but Zhao also painted other animals and landscapes. Zhao was known for his very creative and dynamic horse painting. Horse and groom is a famous painting made by him. He also follows the very simple composition with very few contents inside of a painting. He always tried to avoid superficial beauty. He used very simplified color, schematic and compositions. Even a sometimes he used childlike freestyle drawing, rendering of forms and scale. He also painted a few fantastic landscapes painting in traditional Chinese painting style.

Li Gonglin: Li Gonglin artist name is Baoshi. He was born in Lu An city which is located at Anhui provenience .he was a famous Chinese painter and as well as also the civil officer and archaeologist in Northern Song Dynasty. But he knew for especially his beautiful horse painting.He has his unique line and color quality which is different from another artist. At the same time, he also made a few religious artworks which are related to Buddhism and Taoism. He was also the Master in landscape and portrait painting. His painting style was inspired or similar to Gu Kaizhi and Daozi. Li Gonglin artworks created a few critical tastes through his personal unique style by collecting and copying old masters artworks in his personal style paintings. He rejected pure description in the artworks. He did not use only one style; he used many styles in his artworks. He used very refined, elegant, and skillful outline painting, he does not use to much color. "Five tribute horses" is his famous painting. This painting divided into five sections from right to left with five different horses. Each horse followed by details and descriptions of horses like a Chinese and foreign groom, name, age, place, and time of tribute. For this painting, he used inspirations from Han Gan's style.

Wei Yan: Wei Yan was a Painter of the Tang Dynasty; he was a native of Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. He was also one of the masters of horse painters like Cao Ba, Han Gan, and Zhao Yong. He painted a lot of horse painting including human figures. "Two Horse" is a famous painting made by him. Inside a painting we can see two different color horses with horse riders, one painted horse with white and second is in brown golden color. This painting is a good example of the Tang horse, which is outlined with fine lines without shading and good balances.

Ba Cao: General Ba Cao was descendent of Emperor Wu-di of the Wei dynasty. He belongs to the great royal family. Ba Cao was a talented horse and portrait painter. Ba Cao began his study from calligraphy. He learned calligraphy from Lady Wei, she was his family calligrapher. A Cao Ba brilliant achievement was in horse painting. General Cao's paintings are elegant because he always tried to capture an object's spirit. Ba Cao becomes famous for his painting because he started a horse painting with his own personal style and he added a new content with horse painting, his horse paintings were very expressive and emotional elements. His famous artwork "Nine horse figure" is a very brilliant artwork .inside the painting we can see nine horses in different color and posture with two human figure. All horse is going in one direction. All horses are painted in very light color with a super fine line drawing. Really he was a great master of horse painting.

Han Gan (韓幹, 韓干, ca. 715-781): Han Gan was a Tang Dynasty painter, who is best remembered for his paintings of horses. Han Gan was a Tang Dynasty painter. He came from a poor family in Chang'an modern-day Xi'an, Shaanxi. The earlier stage of life he worked for money as a wine as a wine cellar. He was very perfect in drawing a different kind of objects and subjects but he was very perfect to capture spirits of the horse. He focused especially on different kind of horse drawing and paintings. He mostly painted royal horses because he worked in place; his all horse has a flying dragon quality. His horse painting was very different from his master style. His talent for painting was recognized by one of the most famous painter-poets of the High Tang, Wang Wei 王维 (701-761 ce), who sponsored Han's study in arts. Wang Wei provided him with paint, brushes and gave him a yearly allowance for his study. He directed his studies in painting for over ten years. Under Wang Wei's instruction, Han Gan's talent became recognized. Han became a student of Cao Ba, a court painter, who also specialized in horse painting. In time, Han Gan created a personal style all his own. After his studies, Han became a Tang court painter. Han is most widely remembered for his paintings of horses but he also painted many portraits and Buddhist themed paintings during his career, however, He was presumed to be able to

not only depict the objective body of the horse but also its spirit. Night-Shining White and Two Horses and a Groom are a very famous artwork made by him.

Han Gan Famous Horse Painting Details:

Night-Shining White 照夜白马图 卷

Album leaf,

Ink on paper, 30.8 x 34 cm,

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

According to the historical records, Han Gan made an approximate fifty-two artworks, but mostly artworks were lost. Han Gan's the famous horse painting with the title of Night – Shining White in Chinese name Zhao Ye Bai Ba Tu Juan 照夜白马图 卷, this painting was one of the emperor's favorite painting. This painting is considered the supreme example of a Tang horse painting. Night-Shining White has been collected in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. This painting is known as an authentic painting from Tang Dynasty, on the painting we can see ink stamp which belongs from Tang Dynasty but only this is not a valid reason, the quality of the painting is also a proofed that. In this painting, we can see very carefully artist made one unusual form of horse. horse form is very unusual but he has drawn a very brilliantly with very simple and fine drawing with very less color. He did not use any color in this painting, the artist tried to focus on only super fine line quality and rhythmic form of the horse. In the painting, we can see a lot of calligraphy with an ink seal.

Two Horses and a Groom/ Horse with Rider (牧馬圖)

Album leaf,

Ink and color on silk, 27.5 x 34.1 cm,

National Palace Museum, Taipei

At present this artwork collected by the national palace museum of Taipei. Inside of painting, horse shepherd depicts one in dark color and another one in the very light colored horse. Light color horse going with rider and another one we can see without any rider. If we can safely assume that these are horses from the royal stable. Both horses are outlined with fine brushstrokes to render a spirited. These two horses have very thick necks, small eyes like a fish and narrow faces. Through the fine line, the artist tried to create a harmonious atmosphere. Like the first artwork, he did not focus on color, meant he used very less color.

Monkey and Horse

Ink and wash painting

Southern Song Dynasty anonymous

48.58 X 136.8c.m.

Taipei National Place Museum

In the painting, we can see two muscular and powerful horses running in the very lyrical mood. One horse is very dark and the second horse is in very light colors, it looks like a Han Gan tried to represent the concept of Yin and Yang. As the title of painting "Monkey and Horse" represent the contents of the painting especially horse with the monkey. That time this idea was very unique and new for everyone. Two monkeys were seating on the tree and another monkey seated on the rock. These all monkey they are watching two horse, it looks like they were trying to play with each other. As technical perspective, this painting is very dark but beyond this use of color, and line quality is very ideal, these all elements made this painting as a great artwork which is now located at Taipei place museum.

Shen Jun with Horse

27.5 X 122.c.m.

Ink and Wash Painting

Liaoning Provincial Museum

This painting belongs to the meticulous painting of the Jin Dynasty. This painting is a combination of figure and horse images together. In this painting, we can see the quality of Gong Bi means line drawing techniques. All figures in the painting were very clear and defined with very small details. In painting one person riding a horse and other three, they were seated on the other side on the rocks. The total composition was divided in the two parts, in one part artist given a importance to the horse and second part seated figure, they are all looking a rider. This painting looks like an illustration with narrative style.

Qualities of Han Gan work:

Now, we would try to study a few important qualities of Han Gan horse painting. What kind of color, line, form, composition, he used in his artwork. Why he is very famous for horse paintings, what kind of qualities make him different from other artists.

01. Flow like phrases of music: If we see inside of Han Gan horse paintings especially horse head is very beautifully submerged in the awesome power of the artist's simple and fine brush line, through the harmonious qualities we can felt his artworks like a flow like phrases of music.

02. Characteristic features of a Tang painting: in Tang dynasty artist they focus on the strong sense of volume of subject and objects compare to physical presence. According to Chu-Tsing Li, Night-Shining White painting has all characteristic futures of which are shown a Tang Dynasty painting qualities. Few are like this profile depiction, the schematic arrangement, the strong sense of volume, the interest in physical presence, and the emphasis on movement and action". This is the one of the best painting of this time. Especially Han Gan is known for through this painting.

03. The heavenly feeling in the horse: through the drawing skill Han Gan tried to give a Heavenly feeling in horse faces. It does not look like a real physical creature; it looks like a “heavenly” or magically horses the same as a dragon. We can say the power of brushwork, which is presented more than it, is representation. We can feel in his artwork dramatic quality of the line. Though the line he can describe a texture, movement, light space, etc. using a very powerful, lyrical and different kinds of line in his painting which can support more visual interest in his painting.

04. Importance of line: in art line is the very important element of art and line also known by fundamental part of any drawing. Through the line, the artist can simplify the objects and show the character of the object or subject. In the Chinese traditional painting line is a very primary and important element. Even the calligraphy artist they also gave a very important in the form of “writes” (xie 写). Inside of Han Gan artworks, we can see the magic of line. Finally, Wen Fong emphasizes the ability of Han Gan’s painting for conveying movement, and energy through the detail line brush works.

05. Minimal shading: In painting visual depth and shading is very important, visual depth can create by the different tone of the form. Though the shading we can achieve the depth volume in the artwork. It’s played an important role in art. Han Gan used a very less amount of shading in his artworks. Han Gan’s brushwork has able the horse’s body with a realistic sense of solidity. The round arc of the horse’s rump, its muscular chest, pricked ears, and thick mane etc. Finally, he did not care about horse physical appearances .he tried to focus on the horse’s expression.

06. Transcends realism: If artist or people are present the realism through the artistic manners as painting, literature, play etc. artist presented the things in that are like a very close or real similar to real life. Han Gan horses are relating to a spiritual realm. Han Gan’s likeness transcends realism. We are persuaded that this horse is no ordinary horse, but a singular horse of superior ability. “Night-Shining White “painting On the right side of the painting there are five Chinese characters in gold which say "Han Gan's Fine Horse".

07. Poetic quality: Han Gan identified and interpreted the creative figurative language in painting which looks like a visual poetry. He can understand the poetic quality and explain that through the line and color. Su Shi appreciated the Han Gan’s horse painting, according to him, his painting is very alive seemed with dramatic poetic quality. Su Shi explained his horse paintings as an “unspoken Poems” and he thinks when Han Gan painted the horses, they really were horse means Han Gan achieved the true value and spirits of the horse, he was very familiar with horse life and their attitude.

08. Spirit and energy: The traditional Chinese artists, they always tried to capture the inner essence of the form. They tried to achieve inner beauty not only the outer form of the objects or form. Artists believed to achieve energy, life, dynamic force, movement, spirit. According to critics, Han Gan achieved these all things in his artworks. He did not try to capture the only physical beauty or likeness, but also he tried to archive the true spirit, energy, and life of the forms. That was the reason his horse different from the other artist. Finally, we can see spirit and energy in his horse painting. Han Gan did not consider the physical likeness. He always tried to give a divine power to the horse. He's not only captured the physical likeness, but also the spirit, energy and life force of this fiery-tempered steed, with a burning eye, flared nostrils and dancing hooves.

09. Less use of color: he did not use a lot of color in his horse forms. He tried to maintain a drawing quality in his horse painting. He used a very fine and soft line for details of horse images. He rejected the use of color. He thought of color as a distraction. Finally, his name became synonymous with the highest standard for painting horses. He rejected the use of color. Like the photographer who prefers to work in black and white.

10. Realistic and expressive representation of horses: Han Gan tried to focus only realistic and expressive form of the horse. For him, this is not very hard because he has good drawing skill in his hand and he knows the behaviors of the horse. Through the fine line and details works, his horse achieved realistic qualities. Han Gan was known for his realistic and expressive representation of horses and his high-spirited horse could be an analogy for the painter’s personal strength and power. If we see his painting than we can understand the quality of line very well, really it is very expressive compared to another artist that time.

11. Varieties of postures: Han can paint all varieties of postures true to life. He always tried to paint different postures of horses. For that in daily life, Han Gan made a rough sketch for final works. He always has given a different look to horse form. He did a very careful study of horses. His artworks don’t have a monotonous quality. All painting was different from each other especially the horse forms. Sometimes he also used the real horse for the drawing or sketch. He prefers to draw from the life due to this reason in his painting he successfully achieved the spirits of the horse.

12. "Baihua" or white drawing: we can see few similarities between Li Gonglin and Han Gan artworks as a "Baihua" or white drawing qualities. The term “Baimiao” means in Chinese painting it’s known by drawing, the artist used only black ink drawing without shading. Han Gan mostly used this technique before the finish final artwork. In Han Gan artwork we can see very clear sensitive and precise drawing quality with black ink. Baihua is a very important to exercise for Chinese painting, through the practice of drawing artist can archive perfectness.

13. Zhao Yong and Han Gan horse: he would have executed his painting expressively in ink in the literati style of bai miao (pure line). He was well aware of and had the choice to use either one of the two dominant styles of horse painting methods. One relying on brightly colored pigment, heightened attention to natural detail the other relying primarily on ink, subtle modeling washes and plain-like draftsmanship. But the other hand Han Gan use only one kind of works he always focuses on draftsmanship or drawing qualities of artworks for that he used a very fine

line with a brush. Through the thickness of the line, he created a very well molding of features of horses. Zhao Yong and Han Gan both known very well for the fine quality line drawing.

14. Zhao Mangfu and Han Gan's horses: If we see Zhao Mangfu horses and Han Gan horses together then we will find the very unique differences. Zhao painting composition and form is almost based on circle or arcs. His all horse forms would be feet in a circle. Zhao's painting that he has systematically employed circle to structure his image. There are large arcs in the haunches, the belly, and mane of the horse. Rhythmic structure based on the theme of the arc which is made more complex. But another hand Han Gan did not create any geometric rule for paintings or horses form. He always tried to make simplified form compared to complex forms or arrangements of space. He focused on rhythm and simplification. But both were a master of horse in a different way and different quality. Both were the great Chinese ink master and known for horse painting.

15. Fat and Lean Horses: Han Gan horses were very fat and lean. He made very fat horses with very heavy meat. We cannot felt the structures or bone or we can say his horse was boneless quality." Han Gan's "fat horse" had to do with inevitable facts of the epoch and individual. It expresses the view of "the meat" of the horse picture in three points: transference, the protection and development and "interest the meat". But finally, he was a very successful horse painter.

16. Drawing from the real life: We have a few folk stories about his life and inspirations. According to one Tang text, a beautiful horse was taken to a veterinarian to cure his lame foot. Han Gan made all sketches of horses from the real life. They are not made by imagination. For the study of the horse, he always had been veterinary shops and stables. Han Gan made a lot of sketches then he used in his painting. After that, he used all sketches in his horse paintings series. This was the reason the horse looks like a very lively, energetic and dynamic.

17. Seals on the Paintings: On his horse painting there are many seals of connoisseurs from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties, which prove that the painting has long been preserved as a precious artwork. This seal shows the ownership and popularity of his horse paintings. In Chinese traditional painting after the painting artist always used calligraphy and they had a personal seal. This seal was the authentication of the original artwork. Used a seal was also one kind of art in Chinese painting. Sometimes these seals indicate the artist name, place, city season or other specific things related to artwork or artist.

18. Inspirations for other Artists: Zhao Mengfu directly influenced by Han Gan horse painting. Zhao Mengfu also was a very well known and famous artist of that time. He always looked at the Han Gan horse painting for reference and he used his painting as inspirations painting. Zhao defiantly inspired from Han horse but it does not mean he tried to copy directly from his painting. He just tried to learn from his horse painting. Another artist his name Su Shi, he also influences by Han Gan horse painting but his horse is mostly painted in profile with rounded bodies qualities.

Outcome: after comparative the study we have seen in Chinese traditional painting we have many famous horse painters but Han Gan is very different from other. After the study finally we achieve the following qualities in Han Gan horse painting like this:

Through the harmonious qualities, we can feel his artworks like a flow like phrases of music or Flow like phrases of music. His horse painting has all characteristic futures of which are shown a Tang Dynasty painting qualities. Through the drawing skill, Han Gan tried to give a Heavenly feeling in horse faces. Inside of Han Gan artworks, we can see the magic of line. Han Gan used a very less amount of shading in his artworks. Han Gan horses are relating to a spiritual realm. Han Gan identified and interpreted the creative figurative language in painting which looks like a visual poetry. He did not try to capture the only physical beauty or likeness, but also he tried to archive the true spirit, energy, and life of the forms. He did not use a lot of color in his horse forms. He tried to maintain a drawing quality in his horse painting. Han Gan tried to focus only realistic and expressive form of the horse. Han can paint all varieties of postures true to life. He always tried to paint different postures of horses. We can see few similarities between Li Gonglin and Han Gan artworks as a "Baihua" or "white" drawing qualities. Zhao Yong and Han Gan both were known very well for the fine quality line drawing. Han Gan did not create any geometric rule for paintings or horses form. He always tried to make simplified form compared to complex forms or arrangements of space. Han Gan horses were very fat and lean. He made very fat horses with very heavy meat. We have a few folk stories about his life and inspirations. Han Gan made all sketches of horses from the real life. On his horse painting, there are many seals of connoisseurs from the Song, Yuan, Ming, and Qing Dynasties, which prove that the painting has long been preserved as a precious artwork. Zhao Mengfu directly influenced by Han Gan horse painting. Zhao defiantly inspired from Han horse but it does not mean he tried to copy directly from his painting.

Conclusion

After the research, we can understand or "to read a painting" of the horse made by Han Gan. We can know about the language and mystery behind of his horse painting and how his painting is different from another artist. The aim of this study is identifying the aesthetically approaches, qualities and historical values of Han Gan's horse paintings in Tang density. In Chinese traditional painting history, no animal affected its history as greatly as the horse or did not get importance as a horse. Horses are an important motif in Chinese mythology, society art, and culture. The Tang emperors' identification with horses was particularly very strong and they have given an importance a horse like a dragon. In Tang dynasty horse get a very high official status.

Han Gan (韓幹, 韩干, ca. 715-781) was a Tang Dynasty painter, who is best remembered for his paintings of horses. Han Gan one of the most famous ancient Chinese painters, devoted himself primarily to horse painting. His talent for painting was discovered by Wang Wei. Han Gan was a great horse painter who early on developed his own style, content, and elements for horse painting. Han Gan's most famous painting;

Night-Shining White is the ultimate example of Tang horse painting. He's not only captured the physical likeness, but also the spirit. Finally, his name became synonymous with the highest standard for painting horses.

Note: The aim of this paper is not commercial. All references used only for educational purpose.

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