

Traditional Chinese
Make-Up

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Introduction

Men → Women

“Shanding Caveman “

Wore necklaces made of animal teeth

Apply red color to the face and lips

Crude, weird and ugly → Aesthetic wisdom and creativity

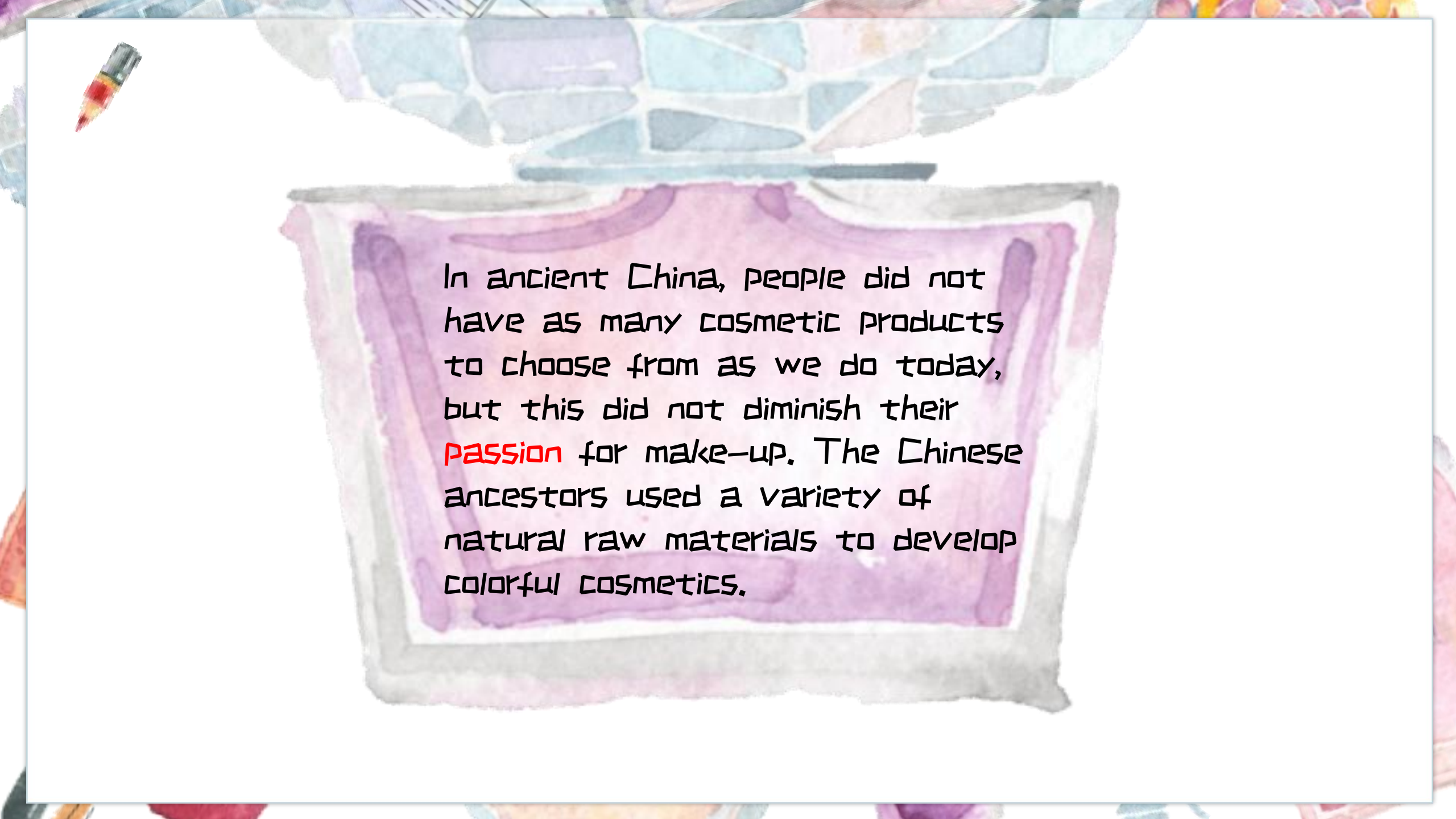
The earliest records of Chinese makeup can be traced back to the

Shang Dynasty

- Signify social status
- Ward off evil spirits



图 2-1 红山文化女神彩塑头像

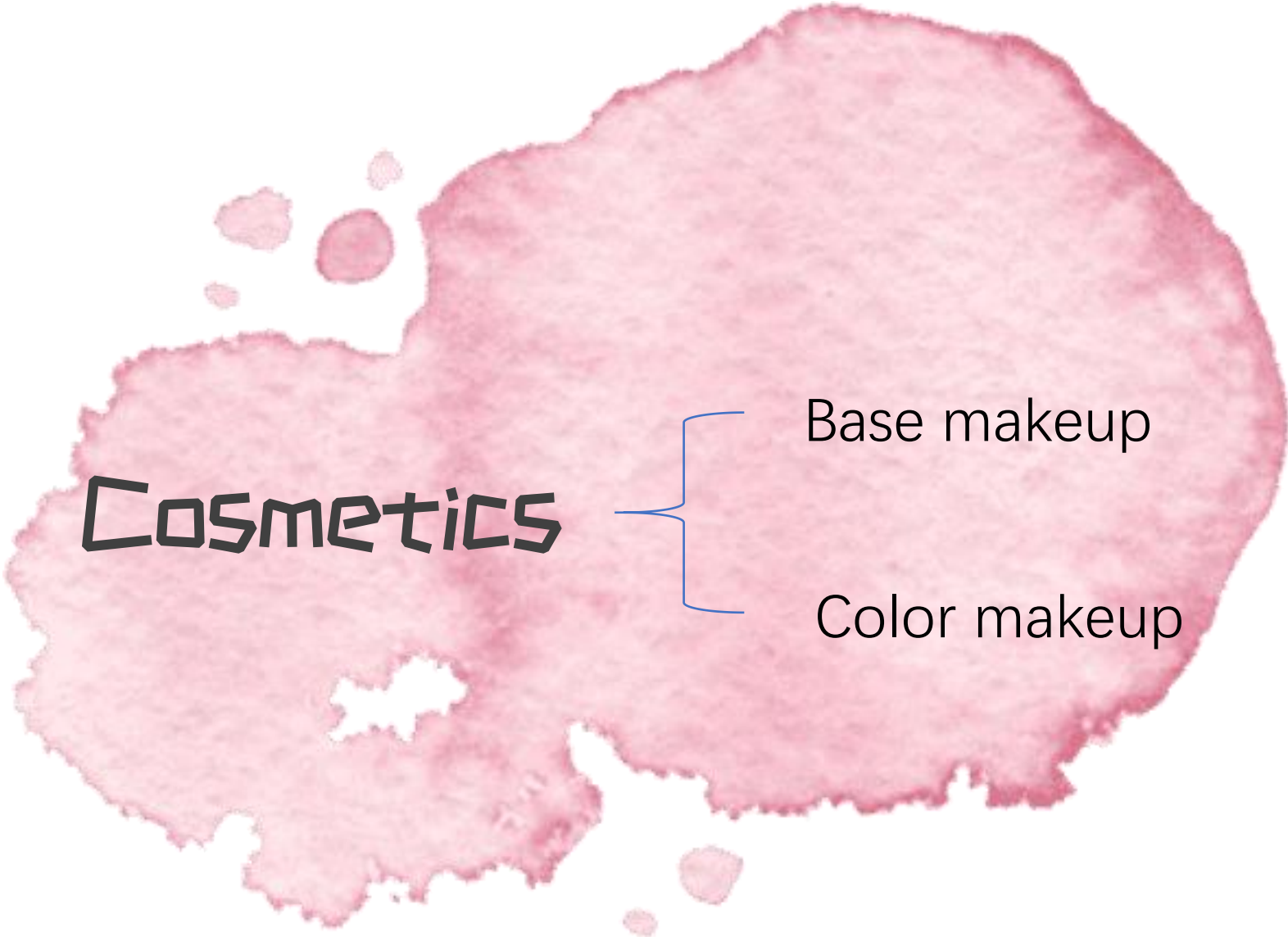


In ancient China, people did not have as many cosmetic products to choose from as we do today, but this did not diminish their **passion** for make-up. The Chinese ancestors used a variety of natural raw materials to develop colorful cosmetics.

Cosmetics

Base makeup

Color makeup





Base Makeup

"A white cover up a hundred ugly"
一白遮百丑

刘勰在《文心雕龙·情采》中写道：“夫铅华所以饰容，而盼倩生于淑姿。”

	Time	Advantage	Disadvantage
Rice powder	Before the Han Dynasty	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Slowing down the aging process2. No side effects3. Easy to operate4. Low cost, natural	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Adhesion is not as strong.2. The whitening effect and gloss are not as obvious as lead powder
Lead powder	<u>Qin</u> and Han Dynasties	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Whiter color2. Smooth and creamy3. Soft and fine texture4. Easy to store	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The skin turned yellow, covered with wrinkles2. Highly toxic

Beauty is easily lost



Color Makeup

“粉白黛黑”。

Black and white makeup

“宫中悉红妆翠眉，此妆之始也。”

Color makeup

Rouge / Blush

“焉支” “烟支” “鲜支”
“燕支” “燕脂”

Before it was introduced to the Central Plains, Yanzhi was used as facial makeup. After Huo Qubing seized the Hexi Corridor, some Xiongnu people sang sadly: "Losing me the Qilian Mountains has made my six animals not thrive; losing me the Yanzhi Mountains has made my women colorless." (“亡我祁连山，使我六畜不蕃息；失我焉支山，使我妇女无颜色。”)



Red powder, “fufen”

(“敷粉”)

Mix powder and Zhu (“朱”, a red material)

Rouge

It has a strong viscosity
Women would apply rouge to their
cheekbones for the long-lasting
effect of “blushing.”



The red material was made into **creams, powders, and cakes** for ease of **use and storage**. It gave rise to different make-up looks depending on the **size and shape** of the area to which it was applied.





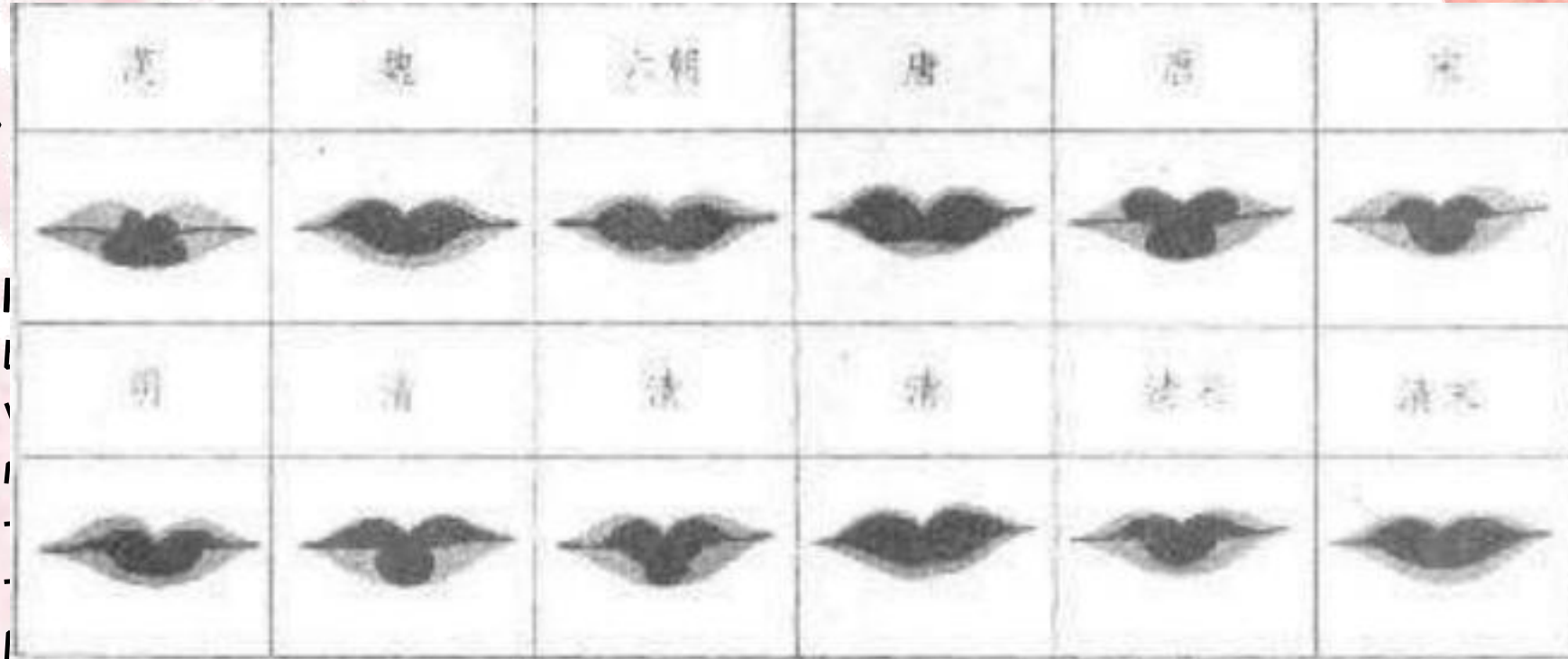
Eyebrows



Period	Tool	Features
Warring States period	Burnt willow branches	
Han Dynasty.	"Dai""Shi Dai (石黛)"	Be put on the stone inkstone, grounded into powder shape . Then , add water to mix
The Sui and Tang dynasties	“螺子黛”	From Persia precious expensive
The Song and Ming dynasties	“烟薰”	
The Qing Dynasty	Rod-shaped eyebrow pencil	Easy to use and portable

Lipsticks

The



ats and oils

and
stick

By the Wei and Jin Dynasties, women began to add spices, boil them and add butter. The lipsticks produced in this way not only had a unique flavor, but also functioned as perfume.

Creativity



Anecdotes

- In 《莺莺传》, Zhang Sheng's gift to Cui Yingying from the capital was "five inches of lipstick." basically close to the **tube lipstick**. Therefore, it break our illusion that ancient Chinese women often take out a piece of red paper and sip it on the lips。
- Princess Yongle, the daughter of Emperor Xuanzong of Tang, was a makeup artist. She used to make a special garden where she grew all kinds of spices and fragrant flowers. In this garden, there were 20 to 30 kinds of plants that could be used to make lipstick.
- 唐顺宗女儿云安公主出嫁时， 陆畅 《奉诏作催妆五言》：“借问妆未成， 东方欲晓霞”

Makeups in Tang Dynasty





Early Tang Dynasty

Reason

- The ruler were alarmed by the death of the Sui Dynasty.
- Common people are busy with developing production and economic recovery.
- In Zhenguan period, the prosperity of the country awoke people's self-confidence.

Facial makeup

White Makeup

“玉颜”

- People in ancient times praise highly the beauty of **nature, smooth and white** just like their preference to jade (玉).
- They had to use amount of foundation
- Many poems in that period praise women's white makeup.

“中有一人字太真,雪肤花貌参差是”

-----白居易《长恨歌》



Red Makeup

Based on the white makeup, applying rouge, red powder on cheeks was also a common ancient women's makeup.

Different styles

In the record of the 《妆台记》, “浓者为酒晕妆;浅者为桃花妆;薄薄施朱,以粉罩之为飞霞妆。”





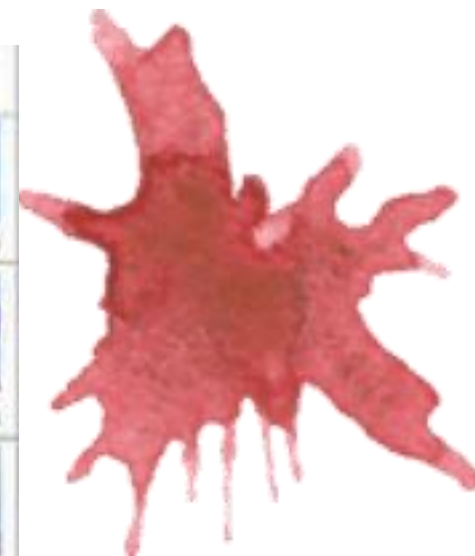
Eyebrow makeup

Women prefer **slender and curved** eyebrows, which looks like a moon.

The "Willow Eyebrow" is shaped like a willow leaf, and the whole is slender. Meanwhile, the willow leaf has been an important metaphor in literature because its image and expression are close to the **female body and emotions**.

螓首蛾眉，巧笑倩兮，美目盼兮——诗经《硕人》

眉形	眉形	眉形
新月眉	蛾眉	柳叶眉





Lip makeup : small and bright





The flourishing period of Tang Dynasty

- The society was featured of openness and inclusiveness.
- Foreign trade brought new makeup styles and materials
- The status of women was relatively high
- Women attached importance to their makeup



So they pursue
gorgeous colors
and various forms
of makeup.

Aesthetic transition

Wall paintings of this period are brightly colored, and the female figures are more graceful and plump than those in the early period.



Facial makeup

Feature: rouge extends to the nose, around the eyes, and even the neck and ears

The most colorful one is the “酒墨妆”. It is similar to the popular “sunburn makeup”(晒伤妆) in recent years. Although the makeup is slightly exaggerated, but the women like to be rich and lively!



...s love for the red



“三白妆”

The face dyed red, while the forehead nose and jaw, three places are white.

Effect: this method makes the forehead look broader and brighter, the chin is fuller, the nose is also more straight, which is similar to the effect of contour and highlighter





Eyebrow

1. Broad and long eyebrow dominated.

2. Slender eyebrows with light color also existed.



图 3-31 扁头髻式眉形
《弈棋仕女图》(部分))



图 3-32 头圆尾尖式眉形
(采自永泰公主墓兼唐宫女局部)



“唐明皇令画工画十眉图，一日鸳鸯眉(又名八字眉)，二日小山眉(又名远山眉)，三日五岳眉，四日三峰眉，五日垂珠眉，六日月棱眉(又名却月眉)，七日分梢眉，八日涵烟眉，九日拂云眉(又名横烟眉)，十日倒晕眉”

Which one do you think looks more serious?



Butterfly Lips



Petal Lips



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The Middle and late period of Tang Dynasty

transition period

The makeup was not bleaker compared to the previous Xuanzong period, but became more magnificent and luxurious, with a hint of madness before doomsday.

Background

- An Shi Rebellion in 755
- Emperor's incompetence and indulgence
- Political turmoil
- Extravagance of the ruling class

Bitter makeup dominated.





Facial makeup



血晕妆

Woman shaves off all of eyebrows and then draws three or four red or purple lines above and below her eyes to imitate the effect of **being scratched**, giving the impression of a bloodied wound.

时世妆 (Shishi makeup)

白居易 《时世妆—徽戎也》
时世流行无远近，腮不施朱面无粉。
乌膏注唇唇似泥，双眉画作八字低。
妍媸黑白失本态，妆成尽似含悲啼。
A pitiful, soft beauty







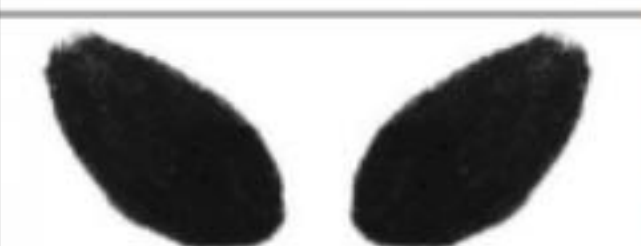



Bitter, gloomy makeup shows the depression of women after the "An Shi Rebellion".



Eyebrow

- Exaggerated, short and broad Gui Ye eyebrow(桂叶眉)
- Sloping eyebrow(八字眉)



中度		 周昉《簪花仕女图》局部
同上		 周昉《调琴啜茗图》局部
同上		 周昉《簪花仕女图》局部
同上		 敦煌莫高窟《涅槃》

Factors

Social stability

Flourishing Tang

- enough time and energy
- adequate makeup materials

Early Tang

- no time
- no necessity

Opening-up and foreign trade

- diverse culture
- styles, materials and tools

Male aesthetic

seek favor and approval

Ruler's reference


- Tang Xuanzong's "Ten Eyebrows"
- rules and laws

Advancement of women

- higher statue
- more participation in politics, economy and sports
- female emperor Wu Zeitian
- creation of more related nove

"I hope in the future, we can also see Chinese makeup as a kind of main makeup branch in the cosmetics market besides European and American makeup, and Japanese and Korean makeup," said Wang.





Each Chinese dynasty has a unique makeup style that gives us a window into the rich culture of China as a whole.



CHANEL
PARIS

Thanks