On the Anthropological Spirit in the Art of Yunnan Cultural Protection Expert SONG Daming

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Abstract Mr. SONG Daming is a nationally renowned expert in heritage protection and photography, deeply influenced by the spirit of artistic anthropology. His work, primarily based in Yunnan Province with experiences in Beijing, benefits from the intersection of these diverse regional and cultural backgrounds, adding depth and richness to his creations. With a unique perspective and keen observational skills, Song Daming documents traditional village dwellings and colorful ethnic costumes in Yunnan. His works hold significant value in ethnology and anthropology, particularly through numerous black-and-white photographs that reflect rural culture and specific historical periods. Since 2000, he has focused on preserving and inheriting ethnic costumes and culture, dedicating his work to promoting poverty alleviation and tourism development in ethnic regions. Song Daming’s artistic pursuits and professional expertise not only highlight the spirit of the Chinese nation but also make valuable academic contributions to cultural heritage protection.

Keywords Cultural Heritage; SONG Daming; Spiritual Art Anthropology
Mr. SONG Daming, a nationally acclaimed figure in cultural heritage preservation and photography, has centered his work around the principles of artistic anthropology. His experiences in Yunnan Province and Beijing have enriched his artistic creations with a diverse and profound cultural perspective. As a distinguished photographer and cultural planning expert in Yunnan, he has explored every corner of Northeast Yunnan, making significant contributions to the development of cultural tourism in the region.

Figure 1: A recent photograph of Mr SONG Daming

Mr. SONG Daming possesses a distinctive perspective and keen observational skills. Through his lens, we observe unique residential architectural landscapes and diverse ethnic costumes in the traditional villages of Yunnan’s ethnic regions. His photographic works hold significant heritage landscape value and are crucial for ethnographic and anthropological research. For instance, his major contributions to the journal “Costume and Culture Studies” exhibit strong ethnographic and anthropological value. These works not only document ethnic costumes and their evolution over specific eras but also explore and preserve rich historical and ethnic cultures.

The appeal of Mr. SONG Daming’s work stems not only from its unique subject matter but also from his profound understanding and insight into the Chinese national spirit. His portfolio includes both black-and-white and color photographs, with the black-and-white images standing out particularly. These photos exhibit strong sketch-like qualities, capturing the rustic culture, residential aesthetics, and scholarly heritage of specific historical periods and traditional societies. For instance, in the challenging regions of Daliang Mountain and Wumeng, his works retain significant anthropological value, documenting the living conditions in mud-walled thatched houses and reflecting the spirit of those times.

Since 2000, with the heightened focus on cultural heritage preservation, Mr. SONG Daming
Figure 2: Historical photographs of rural activities

has taken numerous photos of various activities. Despite the simplicity of these venues, he has captured the tranquility of village landscapes, adding a unique touch to his works. His works portray the kindness of the elderly, the determination of adults, the vitality of youth, and the exuberance of children. He captures the wedding scenes of Yi compatriots, showcasing joyous scenes of singing and dancing, and featuring bundles of corn hanging from eaves, creating a distinctive landscape. Mr. SONG Daming’s artistic pursuits and dedication have been profoundly influenced by the rich regional and ethnic cultures of the Daliang and Wumeng Mountains. Some patterns and designs in costumes not only carry strong ethnic elements but also highlight the traditional cultural spirit of the Chinese nation. For instance, patterns like “the harmony of unity,” “pursuit of perfection,” “many sons, much prosperity,” exemplify the integration of Chinese and ethnic cultures.

In contemporary times, Mr. SONG Daming’s work has increasingly focused on the preservation and transmission of ethnic costumes and culture. He emphasizes the interpretation and promotion of ethnic cultural symbols. His recent works have contributed to poverty alleviation, the improvement of tourism industries, and cultural inheritance in ethnic regions through novel productive forces. Numerous members of the Chinese Anthropological Ethnology Association, particularly young scholars, have discussed and promoted many of his works.

We express our sincere gratitude for Mr. SONG Daming’s profound artistic achievements, professional excellence, strong local identity, and pragmatic approach. We hope his works will continue to add value to cultural heritage protection and inheritance, serving as crucial academic
resources for future generations. Mr. Song Daming’s anthropological spirit reflects his personal accomplishments and guides the field of cultural heritage.

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