

SUMMARY OF NEW CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISSERTATION

Doctoral candidate: Ngô Thị Kim Tuyền

Dissertation title: Cultural Transformation of the Ninh Vân Traditional Stone Carving Village, Ninh Vân Commune, Hoa Lư City, Ninh Bình Province

Major: Cultural Studies

Code: 9229040

Scientific supervisor: Dr. Trần Thị Kim Quế – Dr. Vũ Diệu Trung

Institution: Vietnam National Institute of Culture, Arts, Sports and Tourism

New conclusions of the dissertation

The dissertation explores the cultural transformation of the Ninh Vân traditional stone carving village in both tangible and intangible aspects. It identifies the impacts of industrialization, modernization, and the market economy on the community life of the craft village. Rooted in the structure of traditional Vietnamese rural society, Ninh Vân has developed stone carving alongside agriculture, creating a distinct craft village culture. However, this culture is not static; it constantly evolves and transforms in response to societal changes.

The dissertation applies social change theory to analyze the development process of the stone carving craft in Ninh Vân. Although there are various hypotheses regarding the origin of the craft, the village today has grown remarkably, becoming one of the country's major centers for stone sculpture. In terms of tangible culture, traditional production spaces have been replaced by industrial cluster models, leading to a loss of the close connection between living and working spaces. However, economic growth has enabled local people to restore and embellish religious monuments and to diversify their products—ranging from household items to high-art reliefs and monuments.

As for intangible culture, a notable development is the emergence of the worship of the craft ancestor—a new expression of the need to affirm occupational identity. Social relations within the village have also undergone changes, as the community gradually adapts to the market economy, forming new types of socio-economic linkages. The organization of the craft has expanded from small family-based production to companies and enterprises, increasing production scale and improving product distribution capacity.

Based on field research, the dissertation asserts that craft culture and craft village culture are constantly changing and closely interact with the economy, with the economy playing a leading role. Ninh Vân stone carving village is a vivid example of the multidimensional interplay between tradition and modernity. This is the first comprehensive study to systematize the cultural transformation of Ninh Vân since its official recognition as a traditional craft village, contributing to the theoretical framework on cultural change in the context of a market economy. However, to further enrich both theoretical understanding and practical insight, comparative research with other traditional craft villages—especially those integrating new technologies—is still needed.

Scientific supervisor

Doctoral candidate

Dr. Trần Thị Kim Quế

Dr. Vũ Diệu Trung

Ngô Thị Kim Tuyền