

A PICTURE OF XẨM, ITS LIGHT AND DARK SIDES

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The article surveys the transformation of modern Xẩm from 1969 to the present. The essay expresses gratitude to Xẩm artists and researchers who have made many contributions to preservation of the art of Hát Xẩm. The essay discusses the reappearance of Xẩm after 2005 and demonstrates the beneficial results of collecting, restoring, and applying 4.0 technology to promote Xẩm art.

The paper discusses difficulties in the preservation and dissemination of Hát Xẩm: there are not many Xẩm artists, there is little documentation on Xẩm; Xẩm research, Hát Xẩm works are not easily accessible, the knowledge about Xẩm shared on the internet is not accurate, practitioners cannot make a living from the profession, activities of Xẩm groups are spontaneous and lack orientation, Xẩm teachers are artisans in other arts without formal training, and projects have not been able to be sustained for a long time because of the lack of personnel.

In the context of these challenges, the paper proposes solutions to preserve and promote Xẩm in the modern time, focusing on systematizing knowledge about Xẩm; building an official Hát Xẩm website with accessible audio, visual and textual documents, publishing the Hát Xẩm curricula to teach at clubs and groups and providing support for those who are practicing Hát Xẩm to orient Hát Xẩm groups to develop in the right direction.

Keywords: conservation, inadequacies, solutions, Hát Xẩm, difficulties, process, dissemination.