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**BELARUSIAN-CHINESE STUDENT CREATIVE PROJECT IN THE
CONTEXT OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN TWO CULTURES**

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***Summary.** The article discusses the significance of international student creative projects as an effective tool for fostering dialogue between two cultures – Belarus and China. It examines the case of a joint photo project, "DIALOGUE OF VIEWS," created by two students from the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, representing Belarus and China respectively. The paper highlights how collaborative creativity contributes to both the professional growth of the participants of the project and the deepening of mutual understanding between representatives of two different cultures.*

Joint creative projects in the field of culture and the arts involving young people from Belarus and China hold immense potential, both for strengthening cooperation between the two countries within the framework of joint economic and political programs, and for fostering cultural rapprochement, exchanging creative ideas, and deepening mutual understanding between the two peoples. In the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts (BSUCA) study a large number of students from the People's Republic of China, thus organizing joint cultural projects between Belarusian and Chinese students serves as a catalyst for the development of student creativity, enabling participants to break out of their comfort zones and expand their creative horizons through the interpenetration of two cultures.

Through their studies at the university, interactions during classes, cultural and leisure events and creative programs students find like-minded individuals. During interactions of creative individuals some ideas for joint projects emerge. The realization of these projects requires the support of university staff and faculty. This is how the Belarusian-Chinese photo project "DIALOGUE OF VIEWS" came to life. In this project, an artist from China and an artist from Belarus express their perspectives on Belarus through photography, engaging in dialogue through the medium of images, seeking points of connection, and enriching each other's perspectives with the specific cultural visual context of their countries. This is evident (figure 1) in the color palette, where Chinese culture is characterized by a rich spectrum of colors, while Belarusian culture leans towards a more restrained use of color; in composition, with clear lines and subjects in Chinese culture, and blurred, suggestive imagery in the Belarusian creative context; and in the philosophy of visual representation, capturing the present moment in the Chinese tradition, while leading into a temporal horizon in the Belarusian tradition. The cultural dialogue is further emphasized by the choice

of photographic equipment: the Chinese participant utilized a digital camera, while the Belarusian participant opted for an analog one. The photographs are planned to be arranged in a mixed order, so that the viewer can intuitively determine which cultural perspective each image reflects.



Figure 1 – "DIALOGUE OF VIEWS" (Photos by Tian Yufei and Artsiom Maliushenka)

The Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts has provided invaluable support in realizing the project, offering the exhibition space of the "University of Culture" gallery. The faculty of the Department of Information Technologies in Culture has also been instrumental in organizing and developing the exhibition concept. An exhibition "DIALOGUE OF VIEWS" featuring creative works of the two photographers will be held in early 2025.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the participants involved in preparing the "DIALOGUE OF VIEWS" photo project have observed that interaction with a different cultural context allows one to see their own culture from a new perspective, deepening the semantics of meanings and values, as well as understanding of philosophy and traditions. Also, we would like to emphasize that working on a joint creative project fosters the development of intercultural communication skills. Participants not only learn from each other as professionals but also gain insight into the nuances of interacting with a representative of another culture. Youth projects like "DIALOGUE OF VIEWS" provide young people with a chance to showcase their creativity to a wider audience and can serve as a springboard for future international collaboration in the arts, stimulating both professional and career growth for the participants.