

January 22, 2008



Mr. Chen Huaizhi of the Los Angeles Chinese Consulate with artist Jo Sherwood



"Springtime," 17 x 22," Oil



Norma Vega, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Office, artist Jo Sherwood

## LOS ANGELES CHINESE CONSULATE AND MAYOR'S OFFICE HONOR ARTIST JO SHERWOOD

Sherwood's "China's Isolated Mountain Villages"  
sheds light on unknown Chinese cultures

Los Angeles, Calif.--Artist and Cultural Documentarian Jo Sherwood was honored January 18 for her efforts to raise awareness of isolated and endangered cultures through her art. Sherwood's "China's Isolated Mountain Villages" opened at the historic Wilshire Ebell Fine Art Gallery with an emphasis on cultural exchange and cooperation. Sherwood was honored by both the Los Angeles Chinese Consulate and by Norma Vega of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's office, who presented her with a Certificate of Commendation.

Sherwood has spent her career documenting isolated cultures around the world, visiting villages in Peru, Guatemala, Bolivia, Swaziland, and Turkey, among many others. During her trip to China, she lived among the Miao people in the mountainous Southwest region of the country.

"I feel as if I am not only an arts ambassador for the United States, but am also a student who wishes to learn the rituals of native cultures," Sherwood said. "I am acting as an artist/anthropologist and hope that through awareness, their way of life can be preserved by decreasing global pressures that force them to leave their villages."

The exhibit, which ran through January 20, will be on display in various U.S. cities before Sherwood releases another set of paintings based on her upcoming travels.

"I plan to travel to Albania and Brazil in the coming year, and intend to faithfully document the villages I visit," Sherwood said. "My mission is not complete until I can share the beauty of these cultures with future generations."