

Rybina L. I., director of the scientific library of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, 191186, Saint-Petersburg, Griboyedov canal embankment, 2, lit. A, e-mail: libakademij@yandex.ru

Educational publications for training artists in the mstyora school of lacquer miniature painting

Abstract. The article provides an overview, describes the structure and content of educational manuals by Yu.I. Ukolova, a teacher at the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, a branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts. The editions are designed for students studying in the field of study “Decorative applied arts and folk crafts (by types)” – specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting.

Keywords: Russian university of traditional art crafts, traditional arts and crafts, Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, professional disciplines, graduate qualification work.



Fig. 1. Cover of the textbook "Features of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting"

lacquer miniature painting”.

At the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, a branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, training is conducted for artists specializing in the field of study “Decorative and applied arts and folk crafts (by types)” — specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting.

In 2024, Yu. I. Ukolova, a lecturer at the institute, developed and prepared three textbooks for publication on professional disciplines within this course of study. These teaching materials include theoretical information and practical exercises corresponding to specific topics.

The textbook entitled “Features of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting” [1] (Fig. 1⁹⁹) intended for first-year bachelor's degree students, consists of two chapters: “Artistic and technological features of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting” and “Requirements for creating works of Mstyora

⁹⁹ Fig. 1. Ukolova Yu.I. Features of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting: Textbook for students studying in the field of study “Decorative applied arts and folk crafts (by types)” – specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting / Yu.I. Ukolova; Technical editor Yu.E. Lapina; Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, Higher school of folk arts. – St. Petersburg: VShNI, 2024. – 64 p.: ill. – ISBN 978-5-907569-52-2.

In the first section of the textbook titled “History of development of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting art”, the author describes the history of icon-painting craft that formed during the 17th–19th centuries in Bogoyavlenskaya Sloboda (future village of Mstyora), based on the Vladimir-Suzdal school of iconography [1] (Fig. 2¹⁰⁰).



Fig. 2. Golyshev I.A. Lithograph. View of Bogoyavlenskaya Sloboda, Mstyora, Vladimir province, Vyazniki district. 1860

Mstyora icon painting has characteristic features such as detailed elaboration and use of central perspective in depictions of architectural elements, elongated proportions of saint figures, predominance of green, blue, emerald and golden color tones.

In the 20th century, Mstyora artists who painted icons until 1917 began creating non-religious themed compositions, thus preserving Mstyora miniature painting. Following the example of artists from Palekh and Fedoskino, they started producing artworks on papermâché items.

In 1931, the Mstyora painters' cooperative "Proletarian art" was established. The artistic level of works created by its masters was highly appreciated at many exhibitions, including international ones. For instance, in 1937, the artist N.P. Klykov from the "Proletarian art" cooperative received two gold medals for his works "Timber procurement" and "Dubrovsky" [1] (Fig. 3).

In the second section of the first chapter, the author lists tools and materials necessary for creating artworks and describes the technology of making natural tempera paints from organic pigments.

The second chapter of the textbook comprises two sections. In the first one, the process of creating an artistic-graphic project for small-scale work is described, followed by requirements for completing creative projects. It also outlines the algorithm for their creation using the example of a classroom assignment on the topic "Artistic-practical project based on A.S. Pushkin's work 'Rusalka' (Mermaid)".

¹⁰⁰ Fig. 2, 3. Ukolova Yu.I. Features of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting: Textbook for students studying in the field of study “Decorative applied arts and folk crafts (by types)” – specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting / Yu.I. Ukolova; Technical editor Yu.E. Lapina; Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, Higher school of folk arts. – St. Petersburg: VShNI, 2024. – Pp. 8, 13.: ill. – ISBN 978-5-907569-52-2.



Fig. 3. Klykov N.P. Box "Dubrovsky." 1940. Tempera, gold, papermâché.
State Russian museum (St. Petersburg)

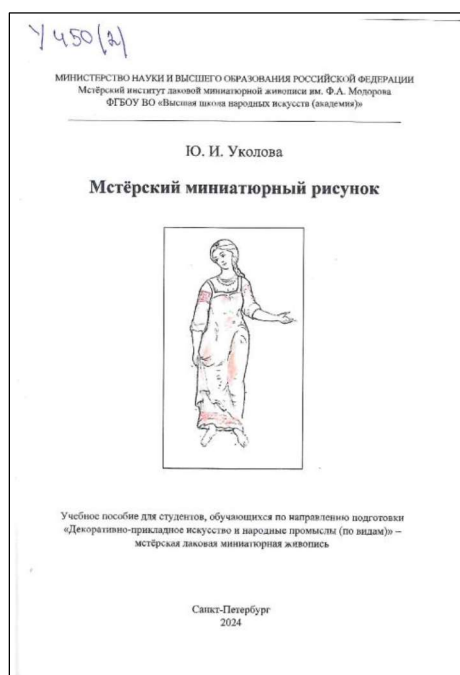


Fig. 4. Cover of the textbook
"Mstyora miniature drawing"

In the second section, the process and sequence of stages involved in creating a material-based artwork of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting based on an artistic-graphic project are described.

In the textbook "Mstyora miniature drawing" [2] (Fig. 4¹⁰¹), the process of drawing human figures is thoroughly explained. It consists of two chapters: "Fundamentals of stylization in lacquer miniature painting and iconography" and "Transformation and stylization of human figure in compositional solutions of Mstyora lacquer miniature paintings".

At the beginning of the first chapter, in the section titled "Regional-historical characteristics and techniques of brushwork in Mstyora miniature drawing", the author notes the influence of Byzantine art on the formation of the Mstyora

iconographic craft. A distinctive genre in Mstyora iconography was the hagiographical icon¹⁰². The artists of Mstyora were renowned iconographers and

¹⁰¹ Fig. 4. Ukolova Yu.I. Mstyora miniature drawing: Textbook for students studying in the field of study "Decorative applied arts and folk crafts (by types)" – specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting / Yu.I. Ukolova; Technical editor Yu.E. Lapina; Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, Higher school of folk arts. – St. Petersburg: VShNI, 2024. – 52 p.: ill. – ISBN 978-5-907569-49-2.

¹⁰² A hagiographical icon is an icon where the central part (medallion) depicts the image of a saint, while the margins feature separate compositions (kleyms) illustrating episodes from his life [4].

restorers whom collectors of antiquities and connoisseurs of Old Russian icons approached for restoration and copying purposes.

In the section titled "Scope and sequence of assignments for the discipline 'Mstyora miniature drawing'", the author formulates learning objectives and describes practical tasks essential for developing skills in miniature stylized representation of the human figure among future artists. Drawings featuring representations of the human figure are included in the appendix.

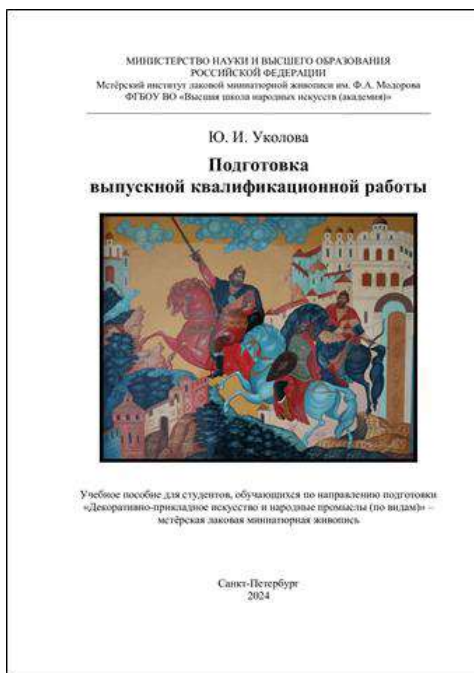


Fig. 5. Cover of the textbook
"Preparation of graduation
qualification work"

The second chapter includes two sections: "Recommendations for completing classroom assignments in the course 'Mstyora miniature drawing'" and "Methods of incorporating completed assignments into creative compositional solutions for future artworks". In the first section of the textbook, the author recommends that students begin mastering miniature drawing by copying samples of ancient Russian painting. The text presents examples of representational principles used in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, including spatial conventionality of planarity, construction of reverse perspective and spatial conventionality of color, which does not conform to illusionary perception.

In the second section, algorithms for stylization and transformation of academic drawings of the human figure into Mstyora miniature drawing suitable for narrative composition are described. Appendices provide examples of completed assignments for the discipline "Mstyora miniature drawing".

In the textbook "Preparation of graduation qualification work" [3] (Fig. 5¹⁰³), the author examines the stages of preparation and execution of an artistic piece exemplified by the diploma work—a panel of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting titled "Bogatyr's outpost," created by a fourth-year student of the institute.

The book consists of two chapters: "General requirements for preparing a final qualifying work for students receiving higher education in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting" and "Creating variative final qualifying work in higher education in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting".

In the first chapter, the history of development of iconographic craftsmanship and Mstyora embroidery, prevalent in the village of Mstyora, is explored.

¹⁰³ Fig. 5. Ukolova Yu.I. Preparation of graduation qualification work: Textbook for students studying in the field of study "Decorative applied arts and folk crafts (by types)" – specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting / Yu.I. Ukolova; Technical editor Yu.E. Lapina; Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, Higher school of folk arts. – St. Petersburg: VShNI, 2024. – 72 p.: ill. – ISBN 978-5-907569-54-6.

Additionally, it details the structural components of the final qualifying work, representing the culmination of a student's academic activities.

The second chapter comprises two sections, each examining the stages of creating an original artwork based on the student's own design project.

At the end of the publication, photographs of graduation qualification works completed by students of the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, a branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts —are presented [5] (Figs. 6¹⁰⁴,7).



Fig. 6. Kashirka A. Icon "Saint Cyril and Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles". Graduation qualification work. 2023. Supervisor: V.Yu. Borisova

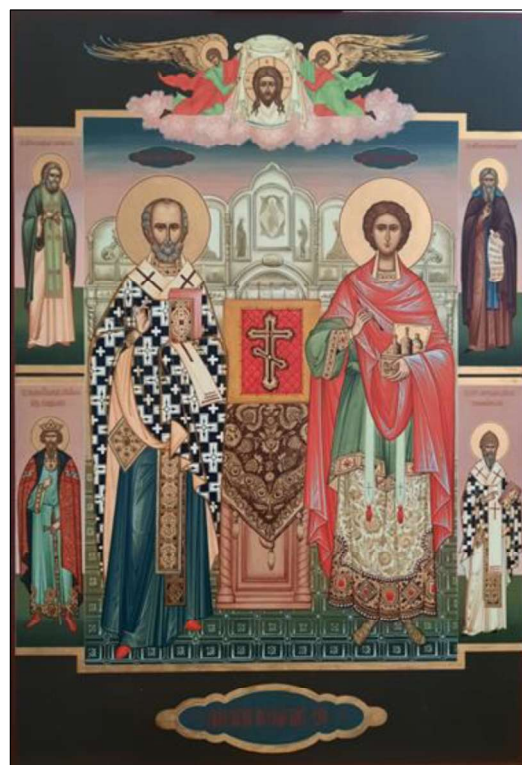


Fig. 7. Kuznetsov A. Icon "Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker and Great Martyr Panteleimon". Graduation qualification work. 2021. Supervisor: V.Yu. Borisova

Artistic images and narratives created by artists throughout the entire period of existence of lacquer miniature painting in the village of Mstyora serve as sources for generating art projects by students of the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov.

The author of the textbooks featured in the article believes that "students' ability to synthesize accumulated knowledge and skills from previous generations

¹⁰⁴ Figs. 6, 7. Ukolova Yu.I. Preparation of graduation qualification work: Textbook for students studying in the field of study "Decorative applied arts and folk crafts (by types)" – specifically focusing on Mstyora lacquer miniature painting / Yu.I. Ukolova; Technical editor Yu.E. Lapina; Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, Higher school of folk arts. – St. Petersburg: VShNI, 2024. – P. 64, 65. – ISBN 978-5-907569-54-6.

of lacquer painting masters with contemporary trends and technologies forms new art" [3, p. 66].

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2. Ukolova Yu. I. Mstyorskoj miniatyurny`j risunok : uchebnoe posobie dlya obuchayushhixsya po napravleniyu podgotovki «Dekorativno-prikladnoe iskusstvo i narodny`e promy`sly` (po vidam)» – mstyorskaya lakovaya miniatyurnaya zhivopis` / Yu. I. Ukolova ; texnicheskij redaktor Yu. E. Lapina ; Msterskij institut lakovoj miniatyurnoj zhivopisi im. F. A. Modorova, Vy`sshaya shkola narodny`x iskusstv . – Sankt-Peterburg : VShNI, 2024. – 52 s. : il. – ISBH 978-5-907569-49-2. – Tekst : neposredstvenny`j.

3. Ukolova Yu. I. Podgotovka vy`pusknoj kvalifikacionnoj raboty` : uchebnoe posobie dlya obuchayushhixsya po napravleniyu podgotovki «Dekorativno-prikladnoe iskusstvo i narodny`e promy`sly` (po vidam)» – mstyorskaya lakovaya miniatyurnaya zhivopis` / Yu. I. Ukolova ; texnicheskij redaktor Yu. E. Lapina ; Msterskij institut lakovoj miniatyurnoj zhivopisi im. F. A. Modorova, Vy`sshaya shkola narodny`x iskusstv . – Sankt-Peterburg : VShNI, 2024. – 72 s. : il. – ISBH 978-5-907569-54-6. – Tekst : neposredstvenny`j.

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