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November marathon of scientific-practical and exhibition events at the Russian university of traditional art crafts

Abstract. The review focuses on the participation of the Russian university of traditional art crafts in major scientific-exhibition events in November 2025: the exhibition “Toy. Joy of childhood” at the State Duma, the IV cultural-economic forum “Community of fashion” and the Festival of Russian-Chinese education.

Keywords: festival, forum, exhibition, traditional art crafts, master classes, international cooperation, toy, Russian university of traditional art crafts, Commonwealth of fashion, State Duma, Russia, China.

November 2025 proved to be exceptionally rich in scientific-practical and exhibition events initiated, organized and participated in by the Russian university of traditional art crafts. In our digest, we offer insights into the main outcomes of these events.

From November 17 to 21, an exhibition titled “Toy. Joy of childhood” took place at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Initiated by the State Duma committee on family protection, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood issues and the Russian university of traditional art crafts, the exhibition displayed toys alongside works of woodcarving from Bogorodskoye, Mstyora and Kholuy lacquer miniature painting, unified by the theme of childhood (Fig. 1²).

On November 19, issues related to the development of domestic toys were discussed at a roundtable titled “Safe childhood: traditional toy as a foundation for harmonious personality development”. Participants included members of the State Duma and invited experts, including university faculty members.

² Figs. 1-15. Photo from the archive of the Institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts.

Participants discussed measures to support manufacturers of children's goods, underscoring the need for market expert involvement in decision-making. They proposed the establishment of a specialized research center focusing on analytics and expertise in children's products and suggested enacting legislation regulating video games aimed at protecting children from harmful influences transmitted via video games and supporting domestic video game producers.



Fig. 1. Exhibition “Toy. Joy of childhood” at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation



Figs. 2, 3. Round table “Safe childhood: traditional toy as a foundation for harmonious personality development”

Concurrently, in St. Petersburg, the Tauride palace hosted the annual fourth edition of the cultural and economic forum “Commonwealth of fashion” (November 19-21, 2025). The university showcased 24 pieces of artistic embroidery and artistic lace-making to the public (Fig. 6). Visitors praised the high quality, beauty and uniqueness of the exhibited items (Figs. 7-9).

During a roundtable discussion, V.F. Maksimovich, president of the university, doctor of pedagogical sciences, professor and academician of the Russian academy of education, together with S.E. Kolomiytsev, chairman of the association “Heritage and traditions” and S.V. Yakovlev, minister of tourism and industries of the Nizhny Novgorod region, explored the potential of traditional art crafts as a source for the development of modern fashion.

The ensuing discussion held significant practical implications since, in 2025, the Russian university of traditional art crafts collaborated with the ministry of tourism and industries of the Nizhny Novgorod region to launch a project aimed at

training professionals with advanced degrees in unique art forms characteristic of the Nizhny Novgorod lands.



Fig. 4. Round table “Safe childhood: traditional toy as a foundation for harmonious personality development”



Fig. 5. M.A. Saltanov, director of the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting, presents an exhibition of student works in Fedoskino lacquer miniature painting



Fig. 6. Plenary session of the IV cultural and economic forum “Commonwealth of fashion” held at the Tauride palace (St. Petersburg)



Fig. 7. Art pieces of artistic embroidery and artistic lace-making



Figs. 8, 9. Art pieces of artistic embroidery and artistic lace-making

Next, the hub of scientific activity shifted again to Moscow, where the Russian university of traditional art crafts participated in the Russian-Chinese education festival, held from November 20-22, 2025, at MISIS University of science and technology, initiated by the ministry of science and higher education (Fig. 10).

The festival serves as a prelude to the years 2026-2027, declared the years of education in Russia and China. Consequently, one of the key objectives of the event is to facilitate alignment of strategies for educational development in both countries to achieve a synergistic effect and ensure mutual understanding between youth from Russia and China in the face of tomorrow's global challenges.

Employees of the Russian university of traditional art crafts attended the plenary session “Strategic partnership between Russia and China: expanding scientific and educational cooperation”, moderated by deputy minister of science and higher education of the Russian Federation K.I. Mogilevskiy. In his address, he emphasized that “Russia and China have a rich history of cultural and scientific ties”, which over recent years have reached “a qualitatively new level”, serving as “a genuine example of comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction”. K.I. Mogilevskiy stated in his speech that Russia and China share “a common aspiration for innovative development amid emerging geopolitical realities”, hence the business agenda of the festival encompasses discussions on “key issues of Sino-Russian cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, examining best practices and prospects for scientific and educational collaboration between our countries”.

Two days of the festival revealed a broad geographical scope of participants: universities from various regions of Russia and China shared experiences in international activities, scientific and educational cooperation, cultural and educational initiatives, interactions with industrial partners, incoming and outgoing academic mobility, including online exchanges and cloud classrooms, as well as adapting foreign students.

The Russian university of traditional art crafts showcased an exhibition of outstanding graduation qualifications titled “Splendor of Russian artistic heritage” – featuring works of Zhostovo decorative painting, artistic bone carving, Mstyora and Kholuy lacquer miniature painting, artistic lacework and artistic embroidery. The university conducted masterclasses in artistic embroidery (O.V. Shvetsova) and Zhostovo painting (M.A. Saltanov) (Fig. 11).



Fig. 10. Opening of the Russian-Chinese education festival



Fig. 11. Exhibition of graduation qualification works of students from the Russian university of traditional art crafts “Splendor of Russian artistic heritage”

A significant event of the second day of the festival was the open lecture “Traditional art crafts of Russia and China: dialogue of national cultures – dialogue of states”. During the lecture, S.A. Tikhomirov, vice-rector for research at the Russian university of traditional art crafts, highlighted that the basis for long-term cooperation in scientific, educational and cultural spheres with colleagues from China lies in the related art forms existing in both countries: artistic bone carving, artistic woodcarving, artistic embroidery and artistic lace-making (Fig. 12). He proposed the idea of holding a thematic summer school for students in regional-historical centers of traditional art crafts in the Moscow region.

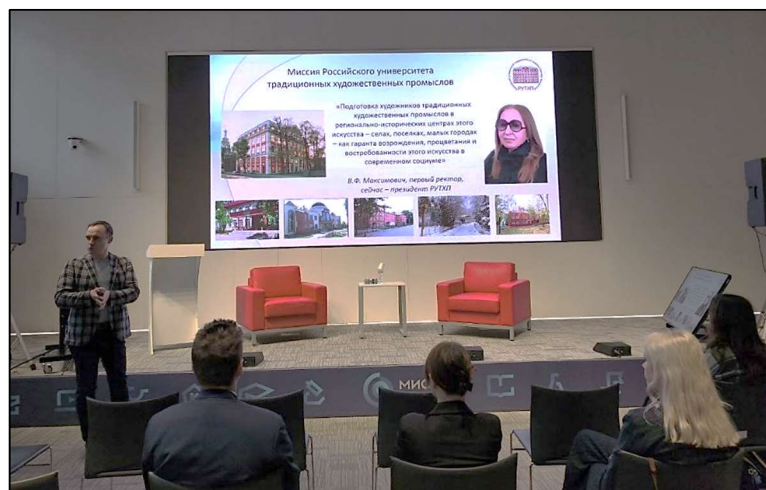


Рис. 12. S.A. Tikhomirov, vice-rector for research at the Russian university of traditional art crafts, is delivering the open lecture “Traditional art crafts of Russia and China: dialogue of national cultures – dialogue of states”

The festival program was extremely diverse: besides the mentioned events, there were master classes on tea ceremony, calligraphy, mahjong, conversational Chinese language, demonstrations of wushu elements, book presentations and much more (Figs. 13-15).



Fig. 13. Participants of the Russian-Chinese education festival



Fig. 14. Workshop on decorative painting technique “Moscow letter”



Fig. 15. Workshop on artistic embroidery

Overall, the participation of the Russian university of traditional art crafts in such large-scale events demonstrates sustained interest in the results of the university's research and artistic creativity not only within Russia but also internationally.

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