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IV International forum “Traditional art crafts and professional higher education: modern challenges and prospects”: summing up results

On December 11-12, 2025, the institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of Russian university of traditional art crafts hosted the IV International forum “Traditional art crafts and professional higher education: modern challenges and prospects” (Fig. 1⁶).

The solemn opening of the Forum began with a welcoming speech by O.P. Rybnikova, rector of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, candidate of pedagogical sciences. Welcoming addresses were sent to the participants of the Forum by E.V. Afanasyeva, senator of the Russian Federation and chairman of the board of trustees of the university; E.A. Vtorygina, deputy chairman of the committee of the State Duma on family protection, fatherhood, motherhood and childhood issues, and deputy chairperson of the board of trustees of the Russian university of traditional art crafts; representatives of Beijing Film Academy UNESCO Chair on cinematic arts and cultural diversity secretariat and Mongolian national university of arts and culture.

Welcoming speeches were delivered by participants from Burkina Faso – professor Issa Compaoré, general director of Umanis Group companies and founder of the Higher technological institute and business school Umanis. Professor Compaoré spoke about craftsmanship, the strategic role of private higher education in Burkina Faso and emphasized the importance of higher education for rational modernization of art crafts, highlighting cooperation possibilities between Russia and Burkina Faso. Business auditor Dr. Wend-Yam Ignace Victorien



Fig. 1. IV International forum “Traditional art crafts and professional higher education: modern challenges and prospects”

⁶ Figs. 1-6. Photo from archive of the institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of Russian university of traditional art crafts.

Kaboré outlined major problems facing both crafts enterprises and higher education institutions in this field, suggesting possible solutions to overcome them.

Under the direction of O.V. Fedotova, director of the institute of traditional applied arts, candidate of pedagogical sciences, associate professor, a fashion show took place featuring a collection of graduation qualification dresses created by students of the Russian university of traditional art crafts titled "Look how beautiful...", which demonstrated the richness and magnificence of Russia's artistic heritage (Figs. 2, 3).



Artistic lace-making



Artistic fabric painting

Figs. 2, 3. Graduation qualification work fashion show of students of the Russian university of traditional art crafts

The plenary session was opened by V.F. Maksimovich, academician of the Russian academy of education, doctor of pedagogical sciences, professor, laureate of the Government prize of the Russian Federation in the field of education, president of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, who presented a report dedicated to professional higher education in traditional artistic crafts as a factor contributing to the development of this art form. V.F. Maksimovich focused attention on external and internal challenges confronting the system of continuous vocational education in this area, particularly emphasizing the indivisible connection between learning processes and upbringing, resulting in the essential interrelation between the content of disciplines in traditional art crafts and the content of education in this domain.

M.V. Churakova, candidate of pedagogical sciences, head of the department of hard materials art processing at the Russian university of traditional art crafts, and E.A. Lapshina, candidate of pedagogical sciences, laureate of the Government prize of the Russian Federation in the field of education, head of the artistic lace-making studio at the department of clothing design and artistic finishing at the

Russian university of traditional art crafts, presented information on the possibility of integrating visual elements from different cultures into jewelry art and lace-making.

At the discussion platform of the Forum, questions concerning potential pathways and perspectives for developing a continuous professional education system in the field of traditional art crafts were debated. Participants from Moscow, Ryazan, Saint Petersburg, Yaroslavl, Novosibirsk, Tula, Omsk, Mstyora, Bogorodskoe, Sergiyev Posad and other cities, along with representatives from Kazakhstan and Belarus, discussed topics related to the advancement of higher education in types of traditional art crafts, the role of museum exhibitions in shaping students' aesthetic thinking, the importance of organizing student work exhibitions that lay the foundation for future creative professional activities and shared experiences in designing and implementing additional education programs.

During the days of the Forum, excursions were organized to numerous exhibitions allowing participants to see works of various types of traditional applied art created by students of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, and appreciate the high level of skill demonstrated by students of the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting, Bogorodskoye institute of artistic wood carving, Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, Kholuy institute of lacquer miniature painting named after N.N. Kharlamov and Ryazan institute of traditional applied arts.

Forum participants had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with traditions of artistic embroidery, artistic fabric painting, jewelry making, decorative painting known as "Moscow letter" by visiting the permanent exhibition of traditional art craftsworks at the museum of the institute of traditional applied arts. Works displayed in the exhibition space demonstrate key directions of development in traditional applied art and reflect the high level of artistic-pedagogical activity of faculty members at the Russian university of traditional art crafts and its branches.

On the first day, guests visited the exhibition of archival documents and materials of the institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts entitled "Pages of history". This provided attendees with insight into the history of establishment and evolution of this educational institution.

The second day of the Forum featured an artistic and creative marathon covering various types of traditional art crafts. During this event, participants learned basic techniques of Zhostovo painting (Fig. 4), Bogorodskoye artistic woodcarving (Fig. 5), Kholuy lacquer miniature painting and artistic embroidery using the techniques of Olonets stitching and white satin stitch.

The IV International forum "Traditional art crafts and professional higher education: modern challenges and prospects" became a platform for discussing issues related to preservation and development of traditional art crafts, as well as directions for improving the system of professional higher education in this field.



Fig. 4. Masterclass on Zhostovo decorative painting technique



Fig. 5. Masterclass on Bogorodskoye artistic woodcarving

Through discussions on topical issues, exchange of experience among leading specialists from different regions of Russia and abroad and the opportunity to assess the high professional level of project and performance skills exhibited by students of the Russian university of traditional art crafts at exhibition venues, the forum confirmed its relevance.

The forum highlighted that collaboration between Russian and foreign educational institutions in the field of traditional applied arts has significant potential for further development.



Fig. 6. Participants of the IV International forum “Traditional art crafts and professional higher education: modern challenges and prospects”