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Outcomes of the VI International Forum of students, postgraduates and young scientists “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future”

Abstract. The article reviews the outcomes of the two-day VI International Forum of students, postgraduates and young scientists “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future”, held at the Institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts. The discussions centered on issues of preserving the authenticity of traditional art crafts, artistic and technological innovations in creating works of this type of art, as well as the role of student science and inter-branch cooperation in training a new generation of traditional applied art artists.

Keywords: international forum, student scientific research, traditional art crafts, research activities, student scientific association, Russian university of traditional art crafts, Institute of traditional applied arts.

The VI International Forum “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future”, held on June 9-10, 2026, at the Institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, became a significant event in the life of the professional community. The forum has established itself as a unique youth discussion platform, bringing together students, postgraduates, young scientists and artist-teachers from various regions of Russia.

The official opening of the forum was marked by the performance of the State Anthem of the Russian Federation. Welcoming speeches were delivered to the participants by: Valentina Fyodorovna 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; Olga Petrovna Rybnikova, candidate of pedagogical sciences, rector of the Russian university of traditional art crafts; Olga Vladimirovna Fedotova, candidate of pedagogical sciences, director of the Institute of traditional applied arts (Fig. 1¹⁴).

¹⁴ Figs. 1-16. Photo from the archive of the Institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts.

Welcoming addresses to the forum participants were sent by: senator of the Russian Federation N.S. Kuvshinova; general director of JSC “Fedoskino factory of miniature painting” I.A. Ozolin; general director of LLC “Zhostovo factory” A.A. Klimachyov; director of the State museum of Kholuy Art M.V. Mamina.



Fig. 1. Opening of the VI International Forum “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future”

The event attracted the attention of international partners: welcoming messages were received from the Russian House of science and culture in Paris, the Higher Institute of arts named after Mory Kanté (Republic of Guinea), the Association “Bulgarian center for bobbin and needle lace making” and the Mongolian National University of culture and arts.

In her welcoming address, S.V. Zhilina, acting head of the Representative Office in France of the Federal Agency for the affairs of the commonwealth of independent states, compatriots living abroad and international humanitarian cooperation, noted the many years of successful experience in exhibiting the works of students from the Russian university of traditional art crafts at the Russian House of science and culture in Paris. She emphasized that the annual exhibitions consistently generate great interest among the French audience and compatriots. She expressed confidence that the results of the forum would serve as a foundation for the subsequent demonstration of works of traditional art crafts in France and wished the participants to remain engaged in enriching Russia’s unique cultural heritage.

Dr. Faya Pascal Iffono, director general of the Higher Institute of arts named after Mory Kanté, noted that for 64 years Russia has been a key partner for the Republic of Guinea in the fields of education and science. He highlighted the continuous academic exchange between the two countries and called on the participants to become “artists of development” for their own countries. He also stated his intention to further develop the partnership between the Republic of Guinea and Russia in the field of traditional art crafts.

At the solemn opening ceremony of the forum, a musical welcome was organized (Fig. 2), which included the performance of vocal pieces and dance numbers.

The key event of the first day was the plenary session “Scientific research in the field of traditional art crafts”. The session was moderated by: S.A. Tikhomirov, candidate of culturology, associate professor, vice-rector for research at the Russian university of traditional art crafts and O.V. Fedotova, candidate of pedagogical sciences, associate professor, director of the Institute of traditional applied arts – Moscow branch of the Russian university of traditional art crafts.



Fig. 2. The musical welcome for the forum participants and guests

The following reports were presented: S.A. Tikhomirov (“Student scientific research in the field of traditional art crafts: key parameters”), who outlined the guidelines for students’ academic work (Fig. 3); O.V. Fedotova (“The Institute of traditional applied arts: preserving the past, creating the future”), who emphasized the continuity of traditions and the innovative development of the educational institution; P.Ye. Serov, candidate of pedagogical sciences, member of the Union of artists of Russia and curator of the Student scientific society, who spoke about the prospects for its development; M.A. Saltanov, candidate of pedagogical sciences and director of the Fedoskino Institute, who revealed the specifics of conducting masterclasses on various types of traditional art crafts for a foreign audience.

Fig. 3. S.A. Tikhomirov’s speech at the plenary session of the VI International Forum “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future”



A vibrant highlight was the “Unity of traditions” fashion show, which vividly demonstrated the beauty of artistic lace making, artistic embroidery and artistic

fabric painting (Figs. 4, 5). The runway featured graduation projects and coursework by students from the university's branches.



Figs. 4, 5. "Unity of traditions" fashion show

The second part of the plenary session was dedicated directly to student research. The following reports were presented: E. Gutarova, E. Fyodorova, E. Kobyakova and U. Konstantyuk, who demonstrated a high level of research preparation and a wide spectrum of scientific problems being addressed, ranging from the renovation of Galich lace-making and the use of titanium in jewelry to the dynamics of color changes in Fedoskino miniature painting and an analysis of the work of artist N.D. Butorin in the context of the development of the animalistic genre in bone carving.

The plenary session set a high academic tone for the entire forum and identified key vectors for the development of student science in the field of traditional art crafts: methodological support for research; Institutional support for youth initiatives; A practice-oriented approach; The international dimension of promoting traditional applied arts.

During the forum days, numerous exhibitions were held, allowing participants to appreciate the richness and diversity of traditional art crafts: "The image of the capital in the decorative painting 'Moscow Letter'", "Artistic embroidery: from concept to project", a series of exhibitions of lacquer miniature painting, which united works by students from Kholuy, Fedoskino and Mstyora, the exposition "Russia through the ages" from the Sergiev Posad Toy Institute as well as the permanent exhibitions of paintings, graphics and graduation works of the Institute of traditional applied arts.

The exhibition space of the forum became a kind of encyclopedia of the history and contemporary state of Russia's traditional art crafts (Figs. 6, 7).

The first day of the forum concluded with a rich cultural and educational program. A creative quiz titled "The seventh sense" (Fig. 8) was held. Under the guidance of N.G. Kuznetsov, head of the department of drawing and painting at the Russian university of traditional art crafts and candidate of art history, an

interregional artistic and creative competition of graphic sketches took place. Participants competed in the skill of quick drawing of a model in a Russian national costume (Fig. 9). Concurrently, a walking tour around Moscow titled “And I’m walking, strolling through Moscow...” was organized for the forum guests (Fig. 10).



Figs. 6, 7. The exhibitions of the VI International Forum “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future”



Fig. 8. “The seventh sense” quiz



Fig. 9. The Interregional artistic and creative competition of graphic sketches



Fig. 10. The walking tour around Moscow “And I’m walking, strolling through Moscow...”

The second day of the forum culminated in a large-scale scientific, educational, and artistic event. It fully revealed the practical and discursive potential of the forum, uniting the work of three thematic platforms, a series of master classes titled “City of Artists” and a closing ceremony featuring a concert program and a traditional Moscow tea party in the summer garden of the Moscow branch.

The discussion platform “Unique traditional art crafts – a unique system of continuous professional education” became the central place for discussing the pedagogical and methodological aspects of training artists in traditional art crafts. The session was moderated by S.A. Tikhomirov and Yu.I. Krivozubova, candidate of pedagogical sciences and deputy director for academic and educational work at the Institute of traditional applied arts.

Key reports at this platform were presented by postgraduate students and teachers of the Russian University of Traditional Art Crafts: A.A. Muravyova addressed the issues of preserving Bogorodsk wood carving, proposing a transition from traditional coatings for wooden artworks to modern technological solutions that ensure their preservation and highlight the artistic techniques and solutions used by the authors; A.V. Gul’chenko justified design as a system-forming factor in the training of jewelry artists; D.S. Puzyryov highlighted the specifics of legal training for future jewelers within the secondary vocational education system – a topic that is gaining particular relevance in the context of copyright protection and the commercialization of works of traditional art crafts. T.S. Pirogova presented research on the role of artistic embroidery as a factor in the development of modern fashion, identifying a combination of traditions and current trends.

The presentations dedicated to the regional aspects of cultural heritage generated significant interest. Yu.N. Danilova revealed the significance of ornamentation in Mstyora lacquer miniatures as a cultural code (Fig. 11). The section’s work was concluded with reports by: M.Yu. Malyshev on the founder of Kholuy lacquer miniatures, V.D. Puzanov-Molev, I.S. Kalmakov on the establishment of secondary vocational education in the field of Nizhny Tagil painting, A.S. Subachyov on the evolution of the decorative painting style known as “Moscow Letter”, O.V. Litvinenko on the advanced training of fine arts teachers as a scientific problem. The platform’s activities concluded with a presentation of student reports by E. Podkina, E. Koreneva and P. Komissarova, which emphasized the continuity of research activities at the university between young scientists, postgraduate students and students.

The discussion platform “Traditional art crafts of Russia: history, images, interpretation of traditions” (moderators: P.Ye. Serov and E.V. Lakarova, candidate of chemical sciences, associate professor, deputy director for academic affairs at the



Fig. 11. Yu.N. Danilova’s speech at the discussion platform “Unique traditional art crafts – a unique system of continuous professional education”

Institute of traditional applied arts) was dedicated to art history and cultural studies aspects. Students from the Russian university of traditional art crafts and its branches presented at this platform. The central theme was the variability of interpreting traditional images in contemporary traditional applied art (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. The discussion platform “Traditional art crafts of Russia: history, images, interpretation of traditions”

The discussion platform “Unique art crafts: cultural code, heritage, style”, led by N.G. Kuznetsov and O.N. Platonova, candidate of technical sciences, associate professor of the department of professional disciplines at the Institute of traditional applied arts, was distinguished by its interdisciplinary approach and engagement with a broad cultural context. Reports were presented by students from Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Mstyora, Sergiev Posad and Bogorodsk.

The culmination of the forum’s practical part was the large-scale artistic and creative marathon “City of Artists”, during which master classes on various types of traditional art crafts were held simultaneously: “Poppy flower” – decorative painting in the “Moscow Letter” style; “Golden curls” – Kholuy lacquer miniature painting; The poppy flower in the technique of Zhostovo painting; “Scanned patterns” – decorative technique of Fedoskino lacquer miniature; “Traditional Rostov flowers” – Rostov enamel (finift); “In the World of Palekh fairy tales” – Palekh lacquer miniature painting; “Ring with elements of decorative chasing” – basics of jewelry making; “Bear pencil holder” – Bogorodsk wood carving; “Galich Lace” – artistic lace making; Creation of a modern women’s blouse in the traditional filigree multi-weave technique; “Rose painting” – artistic fabric painting; “Making a glass holder in the technique of artistic embroidery ‘Olonets sewing’”; “Vesnyanka” – creation of a textile doll (Figs. 13, 14).

The diversity and high level of the master classes were made possible by the coordinated efforts of students, teachers and administrators of the Russian university of traditional art crafts. The “City of Artists” marathon allowed each participant to take away not only new knowledge but also a small work of art created with their own hands.



Figs. 13, 14. “City of Artists”: master classes on various types of traditional art crafts

The final chord of the forum was the solemn summing up of the results and the concert program “How Great That We Are All Here Today”. The event turned into a vibrant musical dialogue, uniting the forum’s participants and guests in an atmosphere of creativity and friendly communication. The concert featured performances by students of the Gnesins Russian academy of music under the direction of associate professor of the accordion and bayan department, A.A. Gataullin (Fig. 15), as well as young artists from the “Vdokhnovenie” (Inspiration) choreographic collective under the leadership of E.O. Gorelik (Fig. 16) and students of the Institute of traditional applied arts.



Fig. 15. The performances by the students of the Gnesins Russian academy of music



Fig. 16. The performances by the choreographic collective “Vdokhnovenie”

The forum concluded with a symbolic and heartfelt event – a “Moscow tea party” in the summer garden of the Institute. In an atmosphere of informal communication, participants exchanged impressions, summarized their personal outcomes from the two eventful days, shared future plans, discussed opportunities for joint projects and exchanged contacts.

The VI International Forum “Culture of Russia in the 21st century: past in the present, present in the future” has successfully concluded, confirming the high interest of the professional community in the issues of preserving and updating traditional art crafts. Over the two days, more than 60 reports were heard, 13 master classes were conducted and 11 thematic exhibitions were organized, uniting

participants from Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Ryazan, Sergiev Posad, Mstyora, Kholuy, Fedoskino and Bogorodsk. The forum has vividly demonstrated its viability as a unique youth discussion platform, proving that the Russian university of traditional art crafts is successfully building horizontal connections between its branches, creating a unified scientific and educational space for students and young scientists. The forum participants, primarily the young generation of future artists, outlined the key vectors for the development of traditional art crafts: preservation of the traditions of this art form through their scientific understanding, introduction of innovative approaches in artistic and technological solutions when creating original works, comprehension of the professional experience of artists and teachers – the bearers of traditional art crafts, formation of a stable professional identity. The event became an important step in consolidating student scientific potential, strengthening inter-branch cooperation and involving talented youth in solving the strategic tasks of preserving Russia's cultural heritage.