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Traditional art crafts as the splendor of Russia's artistic heritage: lessons of unity

Abstract. On April 17, 2026, at the Scientific center of the Russian academy of education, a round table discussion titled “Traditional art crafts as the splendor of Russia's artistic heritage: lessons of unity” was held as part of the V International Assembly “Lessons of Unity”. During the event, reports were presented on the all-Russian and international mission of the university, as well as on the development vectors of the Russian university of traditional art crafts. Challenges and prospects of research activities, the specifics of museum and exhibition spaces, successful cases of career guidance work and the experience of international master classes were discussed. Particular attention was paid to the analysis of cooperation between the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting and LLC “Zhostovo Factory”, as well as to the experience of introducing schoolchildren to traditional art crafts.

Keywords: traditional art crafts, research activities, museum and exhibition spaces, career guidance, international masterclasses.

On April 17, 2026, a round table titled “Traditional art crafts as the splendor of Russia's artistic heritage: lessons of unity” was held at the Scientific center of the Russian academy of education (RAE), established on the basis of the Russian university of traditional art crafts (RUTAC).

The round table was part of the V International Assembly “Lessons of Unity”, organized by the RAE. The assembly is aimed at the scientific and pedagogical comprehension of the historical experience of forming Russia's national unity, developing modern educational approaches to the formation and development of an all-Russian civic identity and educating a harmoniously developed personality of a citizen in a multinational state – one who is solidary and responsible for the country's fate.

The speech by the president of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, academician of the RAE, doctor of pedagogical sciences, professor V.F. Maksimovich (Fig. 1¹⁶), which was dedicated to understanding the university's all-Russian and international mission implemented in indissoluble unity, along with the report by the university's rector, candidate of pedagogical sciences O.P. Rybnikova, who outlined the university's development vectors until 2036, served as the theoretical framework for the other speakers at the round table.

¹⁶ Figs. 1-4. Photo from the archive of the Russian university of traditional art crafts.



Fig. 1. President of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, academician of the RAE, doctor of pedagogical sciences, professor V.F. Maksimovich



Fig. 2. Rector of the Russian university of traditional art crafts, candidate of pedagogical sciences O.P. Rybnikova

The Russian university of traditional art crafts (RUTAC) and its branches constitute a complex system whose stability and development are determined by a unified concept and approaches to organizing educational, scientific, artistic-creative, museum-exhibition, international and other types of activities.

During the round table, challenges and prospects for the development of research activities were discussed (vice-rector for research, candidate of culturology, associate professor S.A. Tikhomirov), as well as the specifics of the university's museum and exhibition spaces (head of the department of art history, doctor of pedagogical sciences, associate professor L.M. Vanyushkina) (Fig. 3). Successful cases of career guidance work were presented (director of the Bogorodskoye institute of artistic woodcarving – a branch of RUTAC, candidate of legal sciences, associate professor V.M. Naumov) (Fig. 4), along with experience in conducting international masterclasses (lecturer at the Bogorodskoye institute of artistic woodcarving – a branch of RUTAC E.S. Evdokimova) in the field of the Bogorodskoye artistic woodcarving.



Fig. 3. Presentation of a report by the head of the department of art history, doctor of pedagogical sciences, associate professor L.M. Vanyushkina



Fig. 4. Presentation of a report by the director of the Bogorodskoye institute of artistic woodcarving, candidate of legal sciences, associate professor V.M. Naumov

The round table was concluded by speeches dedicated to the analysis of the joint experience of the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting and the specialized enterprise LLC “Zhostovo Factory”, which resulted in Russia’s first graduation of artists from the Zhostovo decorative painting school who received higher education (speaker: M.A. Saltanov, candidate of pedagogical sciences, director of the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting).

Also discussed was the successful experience of introducing schoolchildren to traditional art crafts at the Children’s Art Academy “Rostok” (speaker: E.I. Semyonova, candidate of pedagogical sciences, director of the Siberian institute of traditional applied arts – a branch of RUTAC).

The program of the round table was rich, the presentations sparked lively discussions and the event itself allowed the staff of the Russian university of traditional art crafts and its branches to present best practices and exchange experiences. This will undoubtedly contribute to the realization of the university’s all-Russian and international mission as a unified whole.