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### **Introduction of the Mstyora miniature drawing into the content of education of undergraduate students in the field of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting**

**Abstract.** The article is devoted to experimental work on introducing the Mstyora miniature drawing into the structure of higher education in the field of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting. The author analyzes the impact of the new discipline on improving the skills of students in designing creative works of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting. The article discusses the application of a criterion-evaluation approach to check the effectiveness of the developed content of teaching the Mstyora miniature drawing.

**Keywords:** Mstyora miniature drawing, Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, design, higher education, experimental research, stylization and transformation of the human figure, creative activity, linear drawing, academic drawing, decorative drawing.

When creating a creative work of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, an important aspect is the ability to constructively build the human figure correctly and competently. To accomplish this task, the structure of higher education content in this field of art includes the study of academic drawing, within which undergraduate students study the proportions, plasticity, and anatomical structure of the human figure, as well as the modeling of the shape using tone. However, academic drawing cannot fully meet the need for knowledge about how to depict the human figure specifically for creating artistic works of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting.

One of the main problems that students face when transforming an academic image into a stylistic artistic interpretation is maintaining the correct proportions and anatomical accuracy of the object being stylized while taking into account the artistic conventionality and preserving the characteristics of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting: composition, color scheme, decorative elements, etc. [1, p. 94]. Another problem is finding a balance between realism and stylization, preserving expressiveness and individuality of the depicted image.

By "traditions" in the representation of the human figure in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, we mean a certain decorative interpretation of realistic nature in one-dimensional space of compositional solution, characterized by the following features:

- elongated proportions of the human figure, arms and feet have a refined appearance, the head corresponds to the body in a ratio of 1:9;

- line construction in three stages - a thin line, its filling, and a "tone strike" at the base of the line construction, which represents the highest point of bend, tonal dominance;

- detailed imaging of the clothes of the human figure with the use of "carpet" ornaments and decoration of ammunition elements;

- preference for cold color scheme, green, blue, emerald, and golden hues predominate.

In the current content of education for undergraduate students, there was a subject called "Decorative Drawing," which partially met the need for knowledge and skills related to the stylization of a two-dimensional image of the human figure. The specifics and content of this subject in educating students majoring in "Decorative and Applied Arts and Folk Crafts" were analyzed in detail by M.O. Lomakin, who revealed the basic principles of the visual techniques used in decorative drawing [2, p. 76]. In his studies, the author highlights abstract thinking and improvisation elements in developing a stylization algorithm. He also notes that decorative drawing is constructed via the "simulation" of material unity in students' practical work and by introducing "fragmentation and randomness" into the artwork. M.O. Lomakin outlines an algorithm for integrating the fundamental principles of academic figure construction into the structure of decorative drawing, justifying the necessity of continuous interconnection between subjects in the specialization track and drawing, and suggests methods for bringing these subjects closer together by simulating elements of various types of traditional applied art in decorative drawing [3, p. 138].

While agreeing with M.O. Lomakin's findings regarding the application of academic knowledge in drawing to create artworks of traditional applied arts, it can be argued that within a creative approach to transforming a realistic image into a conditionally reworked one, similar stylization methods and transition algorithms could be employed to convert naturalistic images into two-dimensional flat ones [5, p. 193].

However, the overall concept of teaching decorative drawing to students of traditional applied arts failed to reflect the characteristic essential artistic techniques of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, such as:

- the graphic quality of lines, which possess their own thickness and tonal intensity;

- light and shadow depth within voluminous shapes based on the principle of iconographic black-and-red linework;

- rich ornamentation of the composition with the simulation of different textures.

In light of the above, there arose a need to develop practical assignments in the course of which not only would lacquer miniature painting be interpreted but also the quality of project activities of undergraduate students would improve.

Based on the coloristic, compositional, artistic, and aesthetic specifics of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting, as well as the analysis of regional historical peculiarities of teaching this type of art, the tasks for the subject of decorative drawing were changed, and the concept of education was revised.

As an experimental effort, the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov — a branch of the Higher School of Folk Arts (Academy), the only university in Russia where the art of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting is taught, developed and implemented a fundamentally new subject, "Mstyora Miniature Drawing."

The purpose of the conducted research was to practically verify the developed content of teaching Mstyora miniature drawing. The object of the experimental work was to evaluate the performance of practical works by undergraduate students studying Mstyora lacquer miniature painting according to the developed criteria and indicators of quality.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in obtaining and presenting objective information about the practical effectiveness of the developed content of education in the context of preparing highly qualified artists capable of creating unique works of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting based on their projects.

The verification and implementation of the new content of teaching Mstyora miniature drawing took place during the period from 2018 to 2024. The study involved 30 undergraduate students and 5 teachers.

The experiment was built using specific research methods, such as analysis, synthesis, pedagogical observation, expert criterial evaluation, monitoring the effectiveness of completing practical assignments, all based on the essence of this type of art and the assimilation of the content of higher education in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting. Adapted assignments for the subjects "Academic Drawing" and "Mstyora Miniature Drawing" were developed. When developing adapted assignments, the following tasks were set and completed:

- To formulate themes for assignments on academic and Mstyora miniature drawing in support of the topics of designing future artistic works of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting;
- To determine the perspectives of the human figure in academic assignments with less pronounced three-dimensional perspectives without sharpening direct perspective;
- To build a system of mutual support and consultation between the faculty of drawing and painting of the head university and the department of artistic, executive, and design activities of the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov;
- To divide the conduct of the disciplines "Academic Drawing" and "Mstyora Miniature Drawing" among instructors — experts in the classical academic school of drawing and stylistic (Mstyora lacquer miniature painting).

The developed assignments, created through the joint efforts of the departments of the head university and the branch, raised the level of knowledge, abilities, and skills of students concerning the depiction of a stylized human figure based on the results of the experiment.

During the experimental work, the level of professional growth of undergraduate students in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting was identified. Indicators of stylization quality improved compared to decorative drawing: compliance with the type of art, technology and technique of executing an artwork,

tone decision, consistency of the graphic line of painting, as well as compositional solutions in format (Fig. 1<sup>24</sup>).

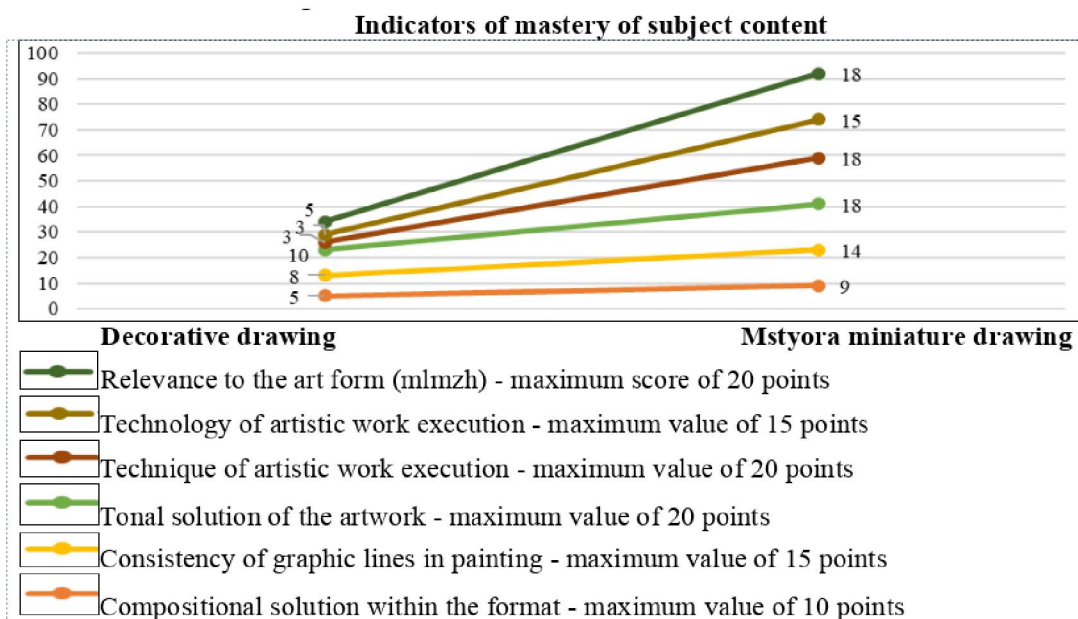


Fig. 1. Indicators of mastering the content of a new discipline "Mstyora Miniature Painting" by higher education students in the field of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting

The overall indicators of mastering the content of teaching Mstyora miniature drawing are represented by a 100-point scale for the quality of practical assignments, which include small-format linear-constructive drawings of human figures in various positions and brush-based black-and-red miniature drawings (Figs. 2, 3<sup>25</sup>).

These data demonstrate an increase in the qualitative characteristics of student learning and prove the effectiveness of the developed content for teaching Mstyora miniature drawing compared to decorative drawing.



Fig. 2. Linear drawing of a human figure in historical costume

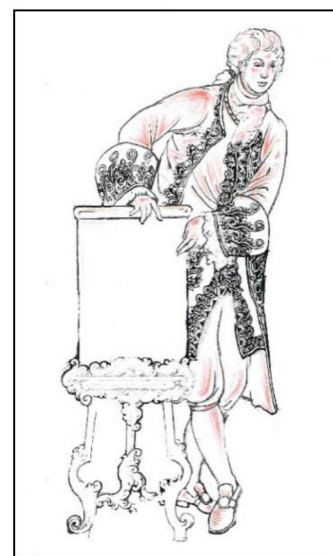


Fig. 3. Mstyora brushwork black-and-red drawing of a human figure in historical costume

<sup>24</sup> Fig. 1, 4. – chart created by the author of the article.

<sup>25</sup> Figs. 2, 3. – Photos from the methodological collection of the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov – a branch of the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "Higher School of Folk Arts (Academy)".

After implementing the content for teaching Mstyora miniature drawing, students better understand the process of constructing and integrating academic three-dimensional images into the one-dimensional plane of an artistic work's design. This allows them to optimize their creative activities and enhances their level of mastery in designing (Fig. 4).

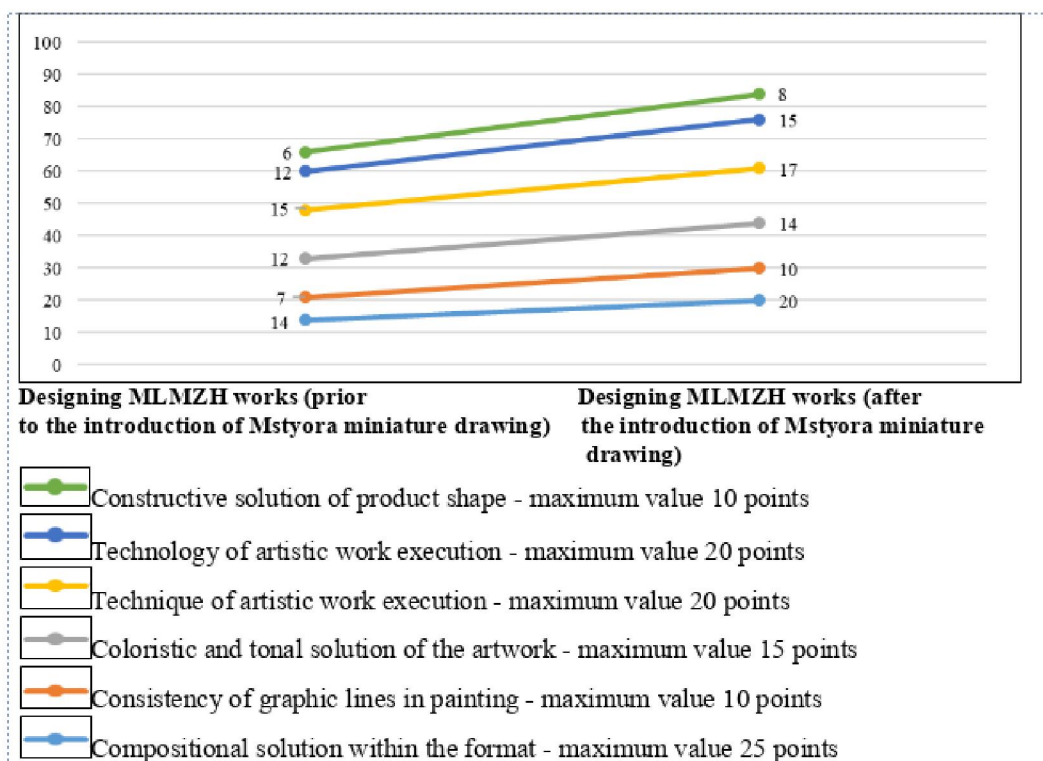


Fig. 4. Indicators of mastering the content of the discipline "Design of Mstyora lacquer miniature paintings" by higher education students

According to surveys conducted at the end of the experiment, students find it easier to locate additional materials for future projects. They not only use art samples and catalogues of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting but also turn to classical painting and graphic arts for inspiration. Additionally, they conduct short sketches of figures to better understand human body movement and create character images for upcoming projects.

As a result of this experimental work, the educational and methodological base for higher education students specializing in Mstyora lacquer miniature painting has been expanded. A textbook titled "Mstyora Miniature Drawing" was developed specifically for these students, containing theoretical and visual material for both classroom and extracurricular practice sessions [4].

This study demonstrated the effectiveness of the developed curriculum for teaching Mstyora miniature drawing, as evidenced by the results of the experiment. Replacing decorative drawing with the new course "Mstyora Miniature Drawing" improved students' professional skills, reflected in the increased quality of unique artistic works created in the style of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting. Therefore,

this new component of higher education in this field serves as a tool for enhancing the training of future artists specializing in lacquer miniature painting.

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