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The Day of Russian science as a "gathering point" for scientific and popular events at the Russian University of traditional art crafts

Abstract. The article presents a digest of scientific and popular events organized by the Russian University of traditional art crafts and its eight branches in February 2025, dedicated to the memorable date — the Day of Russian science.

Keywords: Day of Russian science, scientific and popular events, traditional arts and crafts, open lecture, master class, personal exhibition, science club.

The Russian University of traditional art crafts is a unique university, including because its branches are geographically distant from each other, located in Moscow, Moscow Region, Ryazan, Vladimir, Ivanovo and Omsk regions. One indicator that demonstrates the university operates as a system is the presence of "gathering points"—shared activities that unite the academic community of teachers and students into a cohesive whole. Every February, such a "gathering point" takes the form of scientific and popular events held on the occasion of the Day of Russian science.

A distinctive feature of celebrating the Day of Russian science at the Russian University of traditional art crafts in 2025 was the diversity of formats used for the conducted events.

Open lectures by both staff members of the Russian University of traditional art crafts and invited speakers have become a scientific tradition. For example, in St. Petersburg, the head of the language training department, *O.M. Khubrikov*, shared his experience and vision for the future development of communication skills among future artists specializing in traditional crafts; In Mstyora, *T.E. Kotkova*, a researcher at the Mstyora Art Museum and art historian, presented new data on the historical stages of formation of Mstyora lacquer miniature painting. At the Bogorodskoe institute of artistic woodcarving, *N.A. Morgasova*, an artist from the Bogorodskoye carving factory, spoke about traditions, innovation and generational continuity in the unique Bogorodskoye art while also conducting demonstration workshops. *D.N. Baranova*, head of the Department of professional disciplines at the Sergiev Posad toy institute, gave an open lecture-presentation titled “The role of dolls in the context of children's culture development.” Finally, *M.V. Lebedev*, Honored artist of the Russian Federation and chief artist of LLC "Zhostovo factory", delivered a popular science lecture at the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting titled “200

Years of Zhostovo artistic craftsmanship: history, current state and prospects"(Fig. 1⁵).



Fig. 1. M.V. Lebedev, Honored artist of the Russian Federation and chief artist of LLC "Zhostovo factory" conducted a master class for students of the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting

students *E. Pomazova* and *L. Shilova*, who shared their perspectives on how participating in scientific events benefits future artists working in traditional arts and crafts.

The relay of student scientific discussions was supported by the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting, where a *scientific club for students* was held under the theme "*Conducting scientific research: problems and solutions*" (Fig. 2⁶). *Yu.I. Ukolova*, deputy director for scientific and methodological work, proposed group work for participants, focusing on developing proposals for the advancement of Mstyora's traditional artistic crafts. Participants were tasked with identifying problems, formulating possible solutions and assessing risks and opportunities. This



Fig. 2. *Yu.I. Ukolova*, deputy director for scientific and methodological work at the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, holds a meeting with students in the scientific club

⁵ Fig. 1. Photo from the archives of the Fedoskino institute of lacquer miniature painting—a branch of the Russian University of traditional art crafts

⁶ Fig. 2, 4, 6. Photos from the archive of the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov—a branch of the Russian University of traditional art crafts.

collaborative effort allowed them to formulate recommendations that will be further developed and specified within the framework of scientific research conducted by members of the student scientific society of the Mstyora institute.



Fig. 3. M.O. Lomakin, candidate of pedagogical sciences, associate professor at the department of drawing and painting of the Russian University of traditional art crafts, conducts a demonstration masterclass "Sketching a Human Figure from life using a graphite pencil"

An interesting innovation introduced by the Department of drawing and painting was a **demonstration master class**, during which associate professor M.O. Lomakin demonstrated to the audience a method for sketching a human figure from life using a graphite pencil, providing scientific explanations and clarifications for each stage of the process. For the first time, the master class was broadcast via videoconferencing to all branches of the academy (Fig.

3⁷).

It has also become a good tradition for students to conduct master classes for fellow students. For instance, future artists studying decorative painting in the "Moscow letter" style held a thematic session for students learning artistic embroidery and jewelry making.

The Moscow institute of traditional applied arts, as part of a scientific marathon that lasted throughout February, hosted variously formatted events. During these events, institute employees presented their areas of scientific interest and achievements in a popular science format to colleagues and students. Among the events were:

Laboratory-workshop: "Visual literacy of a traditional applied arts artist: from visual communication to artwork" (led by director *O.V. Fedotova*).

Lecture-dialogue: "The influence of value orientations on spiritual, moral, patriotic and creative personality development: a view from the future" (presented by deputy director for scientific and methodological work *I.A. Lykova*).

Research-based lecture: "Form of product as a 'Mirror' of the Era" (delivered by associate professor of the department of drawing and painting *A.V. Vaneev*).

Virtual excursion: "History of an exhibition: virtual tour of the State Tretyakov gallery" (conducted by senior researcher of the painting department of the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries at the State Tretyakov gallery, *N.A. Musyankova*).

These events provided diverse opportunities for engagement and exploration of scientific topics related to traditional applied arts.

⁷ Fig. 3. Photo from the archive of the Russian University of traditional art crafts.



Fig. 4. Opening of the personal exhibition "Step forward" by E. Volozneva, a fourth-year undergraduate student and chairperson of the Student scientific society at the Mstyora Institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov

A novelty in the celebration of the Day of Russian science was the opening of *personal exhibitions by students*. Thus, on February 11th, at the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov, a personal exhibition titled "Step Forward" by fourth-year undergraduate student and chairperson of the student scientific society, *E. Volozneva*, was inaugurated. The exhibition featured her artistic-graphic projects and original works of

artistic embroidery, including a panel titled "My Mstyora" (Fig. 4).

At the Moscow institute of traditional applied arts, a similar artistic event was the personal exhibition of third-year undergraduate student *D. Petkov*, majoring in "decorative painting". The exhibition showcased paintings created by him during the course "Academic painting" in the first semester of the 2024-2025 academic year (Fig. 5⁸).



Fig. 5. Personal exhibition of *D. Petkov*, a third-year undergraduate student specializing in "decorative painting," at the Moscow institute of traditional applied arts

The indicators of exhibition activity at the Russian University of traditional art crafts have always been high, and personal student exhibitions further enhance the artistic significance within the institution, creating a situation of professional success and recognition for talented students.

⁸ Fig. 5. Photo from the archive of the Institute of traditional applied arts—Moscow branch of the Russian University of traditional art crafts.

The Day of Russian science is not only a holiday but also an excellent opportunity for interaction with partner organizations. On February 7th, the Ryazan institute of traditional applied arts celebrated the Day of Russian science at the local studies department of the Maxim Gorky Library. During the event, branch director *S.Yu. Anisina* presented an exhibition of outstanding student works in artistic embroidery and artistic lace-making, as well as introduced textbooks and educational materials from the university. Additionally, participants engaged in a team competition focused on the history and technologies of traditional folk crafts, followed by masterclasses in artistic embroidery and artistic lace-making.

Prior to the celebration, students from the Kholuy institute of lacquer miniature painting named after N.N. Kharlamov participated in a quest assignment called "Traditions of Kholuy Miniature" at the State museum of Kholuy art.

The Siberian institute of traditional applied arts made children—the students of the children's art academy "Rostok"—its main audience for the Day of Russian science. Specifically designed for this young audience, an educational journey through the Siberian museum of traditional applied arts at the branch was organized. Additionally, a masterclass on Ural-Siberian painting was conducted, during which participants not only created souvenirs but also learned about the technology, color palette and symbolism of this type of decorative painting.



Fig. 6. Radio broadcast of the student program "Science in Faces" at the Mster Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov

The Day of Russian science included activities not only offline but also in media spaces. From February 11th to 13th, the Mstyora institute of lacquer miniature painting named after F.A. Modorov organized a radio broadcast of a student program called "Science in Faces," dedicated to researchers of traditional Russian handicrafts from the 20th and 21st centuries. The radio transmission was complemented by the publication of thematic cards in the official

Vkontakte public page (Fig. 6).

Thus, it can be argued that the Day of Russian science serves not only as a "gathering point" for collective efforts and events at the Russian University of traditional art crafts and its branches but also as a "point of experimentation" with formats and content of scientific and popular events, interactions with partner organizations and a "point of effective communication" between the community of students and teaching staff.