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The exhibition "Step Forward" marks a new stage in professional activity within the student life

On February 11, 2025, staff members and students of the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov – a branch of the Russian University of traditional art crafts, attended the opening of the personal exhibition by fourth-year undergraduate student Ekaterina Volozneva titled "Step Forward." The event was dedicated to celebrating Russian Science Day under the theme "Youth. Traditions. Future" (Fig. 1¹²).



Fig. 1. Exhibition of creative works by fourth-year undergraduate student E.V. Volozneva. Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov. 2025

The author of the embroidered works was interviewed by L.M. Vanyushkina, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences and Head of the Department of Art History at the Russian University of traditional art crafts.

Ekaterina Vladimirovna Volozneva was born on June 16, 2000, in the city of Kovrov. She graduated from secondary general education school No. 4 and never imagined that her future would be connected with traditional artistic crafts.

The turning point came when she met teachers from the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov, who visited her school to talk about what one could learn at their university. Initially, she decided to enroll at

¹² Fig. 1, 2. Photo by the article's author.

Vladimir State University named after A.G. and N.G. Stoletovs in the design department, but it quickly became clear that this was not for her! It was then that she remembered the exquisite beauty of lacquer miniature paintings, panels, boxes, icons... And so, she made up her mind to go to Mstyora. However, fate had another surprise in store: I.I. Yudina, a member of the admissions committee, showed samples of embroidery and items created by students. The impression was so strong that there were no doubts left – she had to apply for the "artistic embroidery" program, while deciding to obtain, first and foremost, secondary vocational education. After successfully completing her studies, which lasted three years and ten months, Ekaterina continued to study Mstyora artistic embroidery at the bachelor's level. Currently, Ekaterina is preparing to defend her final qualification work.

How does Ekaterina see her future? Quite clearly! First of all, she plans to continue her education in graduate school and then pursue a doctoral degree. Under no circumstances will she abandon her current work – on weekends, she teaches drawing and, notably, choreography at the children's club "Helios" in Kovrov. And, of course, she intends to create new vibrant and interesting pieces, prepare exhibitions that will convincingly demonstrate the elegance, beauty and modernity of traditional Mstyora embroidery! The foundation for this has already been laid.

The curator of the exhibition, branch director I.I. Yudina, noted: "This type of exhibition is being held here for the first time. Ekaterina is a prime example of how artistic images can be embodied in lace with great elegance. She serves as the chairperson of both the Student Council and the Student Scientific Society of the Mstyora Institute, actively participating in all inter-university creative competitions, setting an example for her peers."

At the exhibition opening, attendees included faculty members, undergraduate and vocational students from the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov, as well as the Deputy Director for Development of the Mstyora Art Museum.

Visitors to the exhibition warmly praised the quality of the creative works and the event as a whole, wishing the author great success. They also encouraged all students of the branch to actively participate in the life of the Academy, fearlessly creating something new and unique.

Ukolova Yu.I., Deputy Director for Research and Methodology, emphasized that holding such award-exhibitions gives students the opportunity to present themselves from an unknown side, gaining invaluable experience interacting with viewers. This communication allows them to share their creative journey, demonstrating the process of project creation and materialization into finished products.

Future graduates are already thinking today about the need to create a professional portfolio, which will increase their competitiveness in the labor market among other artists in the field of traditional arts and crafts. "Any exhibition is a unique opportunity to express oneself and showcase one's professional skills. As a museum, it's important for us to interact with contemporary artists and help establish communication with audiences. We look forward to seeing more creative

works from Ekaterina," noted O.A. Bushueva, Deputy Director for Development at the Mstyora Art Museum.

At the personal exhibition of E.V. Volozneva, works in various techniques of Mstyora artistic embroidery were presented. The central piece of the exhibit, the panel "My Mstyora," executed in white satin stitch technique, attracted the most attention (Fig. 2). The idea to create a large-scale work – a panorama of Mstyora – came to Ekaterina in the summer of 2024. She decided to execute it on the finest batiste using three traditional Mstyora techniques: "Vladimirskaya razdelka" for the bottom part of the panel, "Russian satin stitch" for the building roofs and "White satin stitch" for the main subject matter. This panel was donated by the artist to the Mstyora Institute of Lacquer Miniature Painting named after F.A. Modorov.



Fig. 2. E.V. Volozneva. Panel "My Mstyora". Creative work. 2024

In her response, E.V. Volozneva expressed gratitude to the University and the Mstyora Institute for the opportunity to introduce her works: "This valuable experience allows me to reveal myself as a creative artist. To all students I wish to develop, not stand still, try new forms of self-expression and not be afraid to be active, because we ourselves create our own future and the future of Russia's traditional art crafts!"

Holding a personal exhibition of original creative works is a unique event that allows students to immerse themselves directly in their future profession, discuss the specifics of Mstyora artistic embroidery and provides motivation for self-realization and development.

The exhibition of creative works in Mstyora artistic embroidery is a significant regional event that contributes to the popularization of this form of art and inspires the creation of new works of traditional applied arts.