



Aleksey Pichugin  
(1909–1999)

## TRINITY

Berezniki Village,  
Borisoglebskiy District,  
Yaroslavl Region, RSFSR

1980s

*Wood, carving, decoration*

About the project

<https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/>





SELECTED BY  
**Ekaterina Eliseeva,**  
*Exhibition Specialist*



I joined the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve in 2020. I work in the Exhibition Department and currently coordinate events of exhibition public programmes.

For the anniversary exhibition, I chose Aleksey Pichugin's 'Trinity'. The naïve (amateur) artist often reproduced classical and religious subjects. One can guess that the creation of this work was inspired by the most famous Andrey Rublyov's 'The Trinity' icon, which is based on the Old Testament story about three angels who came to Abraham and his wife Sarah to tell them about the imminent birth of their son Isaac. This subject symbolically represents the image of the Holy Trinity — the consubstantial and three-personality God.

The naïve art cannot be evaluated according to established standards, it is special: it appeals to your heart, impresses with sincerity, purity, and warmth.

So it is with this piece: it cannot be passed by, it fastens your eyes. Pichugin's 'naïve icon' lacks details inherent to its prototype. For example, there is no church, the Tree of Life and Golgotha in the background. Nothing distracts the viewer, everything is depicted in a very simple way. But viewers cannot take their eyes off this piece.

I was also admired by the fact that the artist chose woodcarving to depict a religious subject. Pichugin gives volume to the angels, the angels' wings and halos go beyond the icon boundaries, thereby enhancing realism and their proximity to the viewer. Their faces express peace and kindness, their hands are calm. All these details convey tranquility to the person looking at this work. By the way, Pichugin often used his fellow villagers as prototypes for his relief carving.

Simple yet wise, mysterious, and touching — the whole artist's 'naïve' personality seems to be looking at you from this work — that is why I really wanted it to be at the 'People and Collections' exhibition.