



Aleksey Erchenko
(1902–1969)

VIEW OF THE PARK FAÇADE OF THE GRAND PALACE IN SUMMER

About the project

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

1954

Watercolour on paper





Aleksey Erchenko
(1902–1969)

VIEW OF THE SMALL PALACE IN SUMMER

1948

Watercolour on paper

About the project

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SELECTED BY

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*Senior Administrator
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I first visited Tsaritsyno in the early 1960s when I was 10–11 years old. My dad and I were walking around, and I saw all these ruins, the village of Tsaritsyno. There were houses everywhere, there were orchards and vegetable gardens. I was really interested. I said then, ‘Dad, look there, there's another building. Let's go and have a look’.

‘What is there to see? People just live there’.

Only later, when I started working here, did I realize that I was showing him the Bread House, which had inhabited apartments back then. Later, my friends and I came here to swim (we lived in Lyublino, it is rather close by).

I also had an interesting experience in 1974. I then served in the army and had training at the Depot station on the Kursk road. The sergeant major said, ‘We need to get kerosene for the lamps’ (at the entrance to the barracks there were kerosene lamps called ‘bats’). Where can we buy it? I told him, ‘There has always been a kerosene shop in Tsaritsyno’. He gave me money and a leave ticket. I came to Tsaritsyno but could not find that shop. There was a village with houses and gardens where the Visitor Centre stands now. I knocked on one of the gates and an old woman came out. I said, ‘Do you have kerosene, Madam?’

‘Why do you need it?’

I explained that the lamps in the barracks had to be refilled.

‘Wait, I'll bring it now’. She brought me two bottles, a liter of kerosene. These are my memories of Tsaritsyno. Erchenko's drawings struck a chord with me.

When the question arose about where to work — at the State Museum of Oriental Art (they also invited me) or in Tsaritsyno — I told the guys, ‘I'll work at Tsaritsyno, with the park and fresh air’.