



Vasiliy Tsygankov  
(1932–1994)

# ROSES WITH AND WITHOUT THORNS Composition

Saint Petersburg, Russia  
1991–1994

*Grog, enamel, decorations*



About the project

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



SELECTED BY  
***Lyudmila Romanova,***  
*Senior Researcher*



The collection of modern ceramics at the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve contains a large number of works that participated in leading international competitions.

It is not surprising that the work of the Leningrad ceramic artist Vasiliy Tsygankov, participant and winner of several international competitions and exhibitions, is displayed in our museum. At the 3rd International Ceramics Exhibition held in Prague in 1962, his panel-layer 'Bird and Sun' was awarded the silver medal. At the International Competition of Ceramic Art in Faenza (Italy) in 1973, his panel 'Roses' was awarded a cash prize for the skill of painting and the originality of the subject. Vasiliy Tsygankov mastered the art of painting on ceramics like no one else.

In his works, he did the incredible: he made glazes and enamels look like a leaf, the sun, or a flower.

In 2007, as a curator of the ceramics collection, I convinced the artist's wife, Nataliya Savinova, to donate ten works to the museum, including his last work, the composition 'Roses with and without Thorns'. This composition is an eternal flower in memory of unjustly convicted prisoners. By depicting a rose on a brick taken from the walls of the Kresty Prison, he endowed the old symbol of beauty with new meanings and forced it to live a new life. On rough, unsightly brick, touched by time, roses painted in enamels still proved to be eternally beautiful.