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Valentina Chertkova  
(1948–2002)

# VIBRANT MASLENITSA FESTIVAL IN TSARITSYNO Panel

About the project

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

Gorodets, Gorky Region, RSFSR  
1989

*Wood, carpentry, oil painting,  
varnishing*



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About the project

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Tamara Rukina  
(1939–2002)

# HORSEMAN AND THE FIGURED BRIDGE Souvenir plaque

Gorodets Painting Factory, Gorodets,  
Nizhny Novgorod Region, RSFSR

1990

*Wood, tempera, carpentry, loose brush  
strokes technique, varnishing*





SELECTED BY

***Elena Shishkina,***

*Expert in the Department  
of Preservation of Cultural  
Heritage Objects and Maintenance  
of Buildings and Structures*



I have been working at the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve for a long time, for over a decade. My specialty is the protection of cultural heritage; fortunately such a large museum offers a lot of work: the area is huge, and there are more than enough cultural heritage objects, more than enough for my lifetime.

Few people can boast that they never get bored with their job. I am a lucky person: the more I look at Tsaritsyno architecture, especially Bazhenov's architecture, the more I love it and never tire of admiring it. It is like old friends: the more time passes, the more valuable they become.

I remember how at the very beginning of my career in Tsaritsyno, I learned that the Tsaritsyno estate was built as a summer pleasure residence for Empress Catherine II. Such unusual, intricate, festive Bazhenov architecture was created primarily for this task.

There was also a story of love of two great people: Catherine the Great and her secret husband Grigoriy Potemkin. The Tsaritsyno estate is associated with this story too.

Having seen objects with Gorodets painting in the collections of our museum, I was amazed by the wonderful combination of Tsaritsyno architecture and folk painting, this artist's precise sense of the spirit of the Tsaritsyno estate.

Fairy-tale architecture in a fairy-tale world! There is no sadness and sighing in this world, but there is sun, joy, love. Even the architecture here is 'gentle'. In this world there is a cheerful revelry at Maslenitsa, lively Russian beauties and accordionists with balalaika players, ladies and gentlemen in love, dashing horsemen (the horses are especially good!). All around is amazingly beautiful, absolutely 'impossible' architecture!

I also remember my student years and studies at the Department of Museum Studies of the Moscow State University of



Culture and Arts — the study of Russian art, folk crafts, auxiliary historical disciplines. Our professor L. Belovinskiy instilled in us a love for Russian culture, and during tests he showed a photo of a church, a painting, a folk toy, a person in civilian, military or folk costume and asked: 'Dating? Style? Artist? Profession? Order? Rank? Governorate?' These were quick-fire questions. I went into the room, sat down in front the teacher, and it started. You need to answer quickly and correctly, otherwise you will have to retake the exam. No crib notes, 'think and collect your thoughts', nothing else... Well, there was a time...

This is probably where my love for the Mezen horses, the Kargopol Polkans, the cheap popular bird Sirin and the Cat of Kazan 'with an Astrakhan mind' comes from, and of course, for the Gorodets ladies and gentlemen.