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About the project

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

Painting by Lyudmila Protopopova
(1906–1981)

Mould by Eduard Krimmer
(1900–1974)

MOSSOVET Vase

Leningrad Lomonosov
Porcelain Factory, USSR
1954

*Porcelain, relief work, overglaze
painting, gilding, selective polishing*





SELECTED BY
Olga Sosnina,

*Head of the Decorative Arts Research
Sector, Ph.D. in Art History*



Two magnificent vases ‘met’ in the Catherine Hall: ‘Red Flowers’ by A. Vorobyevskiy and ‘Mossovet’ by L. Protopopova. Both of them are rare works of Soviet porcelain, created at the Leningrad Porcelain Factory almost simultaneously, in the early 1950s. Almost forty years ago, they were simultaneously transferred to the collection of our museum, which at that time was the State Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts of the Peoples of the USSR. But it is striking how different they are!

The vase ‘Mossovet’ (1954) is a fine example of Soviet neo-classicism in porcelain art. The bowl is decorated with a medallion framed with a golden oak garland — a picturesque image of a square with a fountain and the majestic Mossovet building. Erected by M. Kazakov in 1782, the Russian classicist building after reconstruction in the mid-1940s became the dominant feature of Gorky Street (now Tverskaya Street) and one of the official symbols of Soviet Moscow.

The work of Lyudmila Protopopova, who was fond of photography and often visited the capital, is characterized by an interest in Moscow's architectural monuments. Starting with the famous ‘First Metro in the USSR’ service of 1935, the Moscow theme became one of her favorite motifs in porcelain painting.

Following the facts of life, Protopopova depicted significant scenes of 1954 on the vase. In front of Mossovet, there is a monument to Yuriy Dolgorukiy designed by S. Orlov and inaugurated on June 6, 1954. In the medallion on the pedestal of the leg, the hall of the Kievskaya Station of the Moscow Metro circle line is painted

with meticulous precision. The official opening of this luxuriously decorated station took place on March 14, 1954 and became part of the grand celebration of the 300th anniversary of the reunification of the Russian and Ukrainian peoples.

Another spectacular detail of the solemn and festive design of the vase 'Mossovet' is the conventional image of the Moscow Kremlin in the form of 'swallow tails' (the silhouette of the battlements of the Kremlin walls) and festive fireworks painted in gold above them.

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Painting by Aleksey Vorobyevskiy
(1906–1992)

Mould by Eduard Krimmer
(1900–1974)

RED FLOWERS Vase

Leningrad Lomonosov
Porcelain Factory, USSR

1953

*Porcelain, overglaze painting, gilding,
gold painting*





SELECTED BY
Olga Sosnina,

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Having been studying the history of Russian porcelain for many years, I asked myself: how could such different works as the 'Red Flowers' and 'Mossovet' vases be created almost simultaneously at the Leningrad Porcelain Factory? We decided to showcase them together for the first time at our exhibition. These vases were transferred to the collection of the State Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts of the Peoples of the USSR (now the Tsaritsyno State Museum-Reserve) in 1985 from the museum of the Leningrad Lomonosov Porcelain Factory. They were ones of our first exhibits.

These vases were used to decorate public interiors. The inverted bell on a figured leg goes back to the ancient crater, and the strict harmony of classical proportions conveys the triumph that was established in the art of the post-war period at the end of the Stalinist Empire era.

What makes these classically shaped vases different is their painting. It is made by famous artists L. Protopopova and A. Vorobyevskiy, both born in 1906, part of the same generation. Good fortune brought Lyudmila and Aleksey from the distant outskirts of the country to the famous Leningrad Porcelain Factory, where they worked all their lives. But despite all the similarities in their life paths and obvious talent, their creative personalities are absolutely different.

Vorobyevskiy painted the vase 'Red Flowers' in the fall of 1953 and created a decorative fantasy on porcelain that was completely unexpected for that time: bright red large flowers of fantastic shapes alternate with golden lace ornaments. The vase is the embodiment of the joy of an artist who went through war and captivity and finally returned to creativity!

In this work, as in other works by Vorobyevskiy, I particularly value the amazing property of his talent, the independence from any established aesthetic norms and styles.