



East Meets West Gallery

Heavenly Paradise on Earth

The East Meets West Gallery exhibit "Heavenly Paradise on Earth" is open from March 6 to May 11, 2021 at the All-Russian Museum of Decorative Art.

Curator Tatiana Paleeva metaphorically explores the theme of flowers, and invites viewers not just to unravel and enjoy symbolic codes, but also to observe and contemplate the diverse transformations of the chosen theme, with a wide palette of stylistic manners and individual handwriting. The project is based on the works of leading 21st century Russian artists, painters and decorative specialists who muster different materials and techniques, including pieces from the museum itself and the curator's collection.

The idea of symbolic transformations of flowers in classical and modern art can be considered from two points of view: the European and Oriental traditions, angles that have not yet found serious understanding and presentation. The reflection of these classical European and Eastern traditions in Russian contemporary art has brought to the current project a huge variety of techniques, materials and approaches in the depiction of flowers.

The exhibit presents items of decorative and applied art made of glass and metal, mosaics made of natural stone, modern textile panels with embroidery, sewing, printing and painting on fabric, with techniques of patchwork, embroidery and appliques, as well as abstract objects of porcelain and clay, reminiscent of flowers and complex natural formations. The exhibit also shows easel paintings and graphic art works associated with the depiction of flowers by various contemporary artists with either a historically European or Oriental bent, reflecting a diverse palette of stylistic and technical capabilities of the 21st century. Suren Ayyvazyan, Alina Batalina, Anna Birshtein, Andrey Mamontov, Natalia Muradova, Olga Osnach, Viktor Reshetnikov, Irina Starzhenetskaya, Nikolay Tabachkov, Natalia Khlebtsevich, Tatiana Yan are artists of diverse creative achievements and rich individual "stories".

The section of decorative and applied arts is actively supported by contributions from three departments of the All-Russian Museum of Decorative Art: the Department of Textiles, the Department of Glass and the Department of Printed Sources and Fine Materials. Some of the items in the exhibit on the art of China and Japan were provided by the curator Tatiana Paleeva.

"Heavenly Paradise on Earth" does not claim to be completely unique, but from its own perspective it captures the ever-present dream of paradise, embodied in the "Garden of Earthly Joys". It is crucially important that the integrity and harmony of this universal "garden" are not disturbed and hurt by Baudelaire's "flowers of evil". The defense against this evil has always been true art.

Curator Tatiana Paleeva

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