Imperial Porcelain

1744

St. Petersburg

History

The Imperial Porcelain Manufactory, founded in 1744 in St. Petersburg by the order of Empress Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the Great, was the first porcelain company in Russia and the third in Europe. The masterpieces of Russian porcelain created by great artists, painters, and sculptors have found their way into the collections of major museums all over the world and have much success among collectors who compete for the right to own them at the prestigious Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses. With the accession of Catherine II to the throne in 1765, the Manufactory was renamed into the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory. For more than one hundred and fifty years, the Manufactory fulfilled the orders of the Imperial Family and the Emperor's courtiers, with its world-famous works now adorning the interiors of the Romanov dynasty palaces. During the Soviet period, Lomonosov Porcelain Factory enriched the world of art with its propaganda and avant-garde porcelain. The factory's art laboratory created the new, Soviet porcelain, which set the standard for high artistic quality throughout the entire Soviet era. In 2005, the company reverted to its original name – The Imperial Porcelain Manufactory. Today, the Manufactory's creative team continues to produce remarkable items, unrivalled in the world of contemporary porcelain. Its world-class masters restore famous 18th-20th century works at the Manufactory's museum, which is now the part of the State Hermitage collection. Works of the St. Petersburg school of porcelain reflect the preservation of national traditions, the author's craftsmanship, and the latest trends of art.

Types of porcelain

Currently, the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory produces the items made of hard, soft, and bone porcelain. The Manufactory applies the technology of classic hard porcelain making which was developed in the mid-18th century by Dmitry Vinogradov, the founder of Russian porcelain industry. The formula of 'soft' porcelain was developed at the Manufactory in the early 19th century by famous chemist Nikolai Kachalov. Fine Bone China is remarkable for its high degree of whiteness, delicacy, and lightness, similar by its characteristics to the renowned ancient Chinese porcelain known as 'eggshell'. The items produced by the Manufactory are decorated with both overglaze and underglaze techniques.

Artists

The success of the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory's products is a big merit of their creators: sculptors and painters. The Manufactory's creative team today includes well-known names in the world of porcelain, such as Associate Member of the Russian Academy of Arts and Distinguished Artist of Russia Inna Olevskaya, Distinguished Artists of Russia Tatyana Afanasieva, Nelya Petrova, and Galina Shulyak, and artists Tatiana Chapurgina, Sergei Sokolov, Tatiana Charina and Nina Troitskaya. These names are supplemented by the names of talented young artists who continue to develop the glorious traditions of the St.Petersburg school of porcelain. Many of the works of applied art produced at the factory are exclusive: hand-made and one-of-a-kind.

COLLECTIONS

Imperial

This collection offers the exact copies of the Russian porcelain produced in the 18th-20th centuries. Some of the items are reproduced from the originals of the State Hermitage collections and other museums using classical and contemporary techniques. Among them there are the sculptures of Jacques-Dominique Rachette and Stepan Pimenov, the classic ceremonial vases of Andrei Voronikhin, 'Cottage'- and 'Coat of Arms'-style tea services, "Guriev" tea service plates, and much more.

Classic

This collection includes items with classic, floral, and graphic painting, created by artists at various times during the 20th century. This product was destined to be the subject of high-minded mass-production – to decorate daily life and to provide home comfort.

Cobalt

The basis of this collection consists of tea sets, cups and saucers, teapots, and other items decorated with cobalt and highlighted with gold. The collection is constantly updated with new works – both in shape and pattern, created by the contemporary artists.

White Gold

Works of Bone China, which production technology was developed at the Manufactory more than forty year ago, are notable for their harmonious combination of various classical forms with sophisticated decoration. These works, created by wonderful sculptors and painters, look truly precious.

Russian Style

This collection takes its inspiration from the rich artistic heritage of National Artist of Russia Alexei Vorobyovsky, who seamlessly weaves the themes and images of the Russian folk tradition into the art of porcelain. The collection contains works by other artists reflecting the style of Russian folk woodcuts. A set of exquisite Easter eggs takes a special place in the collection.

Art Studio

The collection offers the unique hand-crafted works of contemporary sculptors and artists who have enriched the world of classic porcelain with new approaches in plastic and graphic art. These unique items of the Manufactory's artists are already being exhibited in museums and private collections.

Avant-garde

The propaganda and avant-garde porcelain of the 1920s is a unique phenomenon in the world of art, reflecting the mood of the revolutionary era. Propaganda works by Sergei Chekhonin and Natalia Danko, as well as Suprematizm items from Kazimir Malevich and Nikolai Suetin form the core of this collection.

Animal Figurines

This collection is made up of works created by famous sculptors and animalists Boris Vorobyev, Pavel Veselov, and Ivan Riznich, whose works took high honours at international exhibitions. The entire sculpture is made entirely by hand and decorated with underglaze painting.

SALES

Export sales

The Imperial Porcelain Manufactory exports its products to the following countries: France, Germany, Italy, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Poland, Great Britain, Montenegro, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Singapore, USA, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago. In many countries, IPM works with partner stores owned by our clients, and the company is actively developing distribution networks in foreign markets.

Imperial Porcelain Brand Shops

The dynamic growth of sales is confirmed by 18 Imperial Porcelain shops which work in St. Petersburg and Moscow, offering a wide range of the Manufactory's products. All of the Brand shops offer a discount card program as well as they organize meetings with the Manufactory's artists and sculptors.

Franchising

Imperial Porcelain franchise procedure is operating in major Russian cities. The franchising programme determines for standardized interior, range, pricing policy, and service.

HoReCa

Professional European-style porcelain for use in the HoReCa sector, meeting the highest standards and all requirements of restaurateurs (dishes that are suitable for frequent use, easy to clean and chip- and scratch-resistant).

Buy on-line

Www.ipm.ru
Offers the entire range of IPM products.
Home delivery available.

Gallery of Contemporary Porcelain Art

In the Gallery of Contemporary Porcelain Art, which regularly hosts thematic and personal exhibitions, you may purchase or place an order for unique works of our artists and sculptors, book a tour to the Manufactory, or take part in a porcelain-painting masterclass.

Special orders

Working with individuals, corporate clients and government bodies is one of the IPM's main areas of activity. As part of a special order, we can produce:

- monogrammed porcelain items with family coats of arms, logos, or elements of a company's corporate identity
- vases, plates, bowls, tea sets, cups and saucers etc., painted according to the customer's sketches
- copies of historical works from the State Hermitage collection
- exclusive gifts and themed souvenirs.

Our regular customers are: the Office of the President of the Russian Federation, St. Petersburg City Administration, Sberbank, Central Bank, Uralsib, Norilsk Nickel, Russian Railways, LUKOIL, Rosneft, MegaFon, Severstal, Gazprom, Transaero Airlines, and others.