Imperial Porcelain

1744

St. Petersburg

AVANT-GARDE COLLECTION

The Avant-Garde Collection takes its inspiration from the 'propaganda porcelain' produced at the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory in the early years following the 1917 Revolution. This was a time of political, social and cultural upheaval in which artists at first played a leading role in the building of a new utopian society. The manufactory itself was renamed the Lomonosov Porcelain Factory. The old imperial motifs were discontinued, and in their place a new radical aesthetic was created, notable for its geometric design and bold colours. Some of the most talented painters in revolutionary Russia put their skills to work on what was for them a new medium. Each one of these artists – Kazimir Malevich,Vasily Kandinsky, Sergei Chekhonin, Nikolai Suetin, Kusma Petrov-Vodkin – brought to this 'new' art form a distinctive and exciting originality. Today, the replicas of these original designs are some of the most popular items in the product range of the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory.

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Chess figures became one of the popular forms of porcelain art of the 1920-1930s. The propaganda theme, inherent in the porcelain art of that era, is clearly reflected in this work. The juxtaposition of the old and new worlds is expressed in this chess set. First and utmost the color contrast is highly symbolic. It is also expressed in the allegorical images of the chess pieces. The red king personifies free proletariat, the queen personifies the new type of peasant and the officer in the budenovka represents the working class and peasant army. The reds symbolize a unified society while the white figures appear as the image of death (the king), riches (the queen), and violence (officers in epaulettes), who reign over the shackled serfs.

Hard porcelain, hand moulding, hand painting.

Author N. Danko

Figurine Red officer
H–95 mm
82.51188

Figurine White pawn
H–60 mm
82.51184

Chess set, Red and White, 1922
400x400 mm
81.15029

N.Danko got the idea of creating a portrait when she heard Anna Akhmatova read her poetry. This is the idea she used to create the image. Akhmatova sat for the sketches for this portrait in her Fontanka home. This image resonates with A. Block's poem that was dedicated to Akhmatova.

Hard porcelain, hand cast
hand painting

Figurine Anna Akhmatova
Author N. Danko, 1924
H–223 mm
82.05183

Figurine Junction
Author V. Nikolaev, 1929
H–275 mm
82.57808

Figurine Girl walking
Author A. Samokhvalov, 1932
H–248 mm
82.05637

Cup with saucer
shape Heraldic
pattern Woman and a devil
Author S. Chekhonin, 1920
220 ml
81.13645

Cup with saucer
pattern and shape Chekhonin 2
Author S. Chekhonin, 1928
175 ml
81.16483

Figurine Street urchins
Author N. Danko, 1927
H–185 mm
82.51126

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Not only did K. Malevich and other «Suprematism» artists enrich the history of world porcelain with a new approach to painting, but they also designed original geometric shapes of porcelain. As a result of yet another creative discovery of the author of the «Black Square», the factory began producing a «utilitarian» line of semi-cups. Malevich considered it sensible that cups should not be round since we only drink from one side, which means the second half is unnecessary and should be cut out. This set was produced at the LFZ for the first time in the 1920s. The original piece is displayed in the State Hermitage museum.

Hard porcelain. Hand cast. Author K. Malevitch, 1923
81.15759

Pattern Red Square.
Author K. Malevich
Bone coffee cup with saucer
shape Black Coffee
80 ml
81.15877
Bone decorative plate
shape Smooth,
D–155 mm
80.51546

Pattern Suetin
Author N. Suetin
Bone coffee cup with saucer
shape Black Coffee
80 ml
81.15878
Bone decorative plate
shape Smooth
D–155 mm
80.51547

Pattern Malevich
Author K. Malevich
Bone coffee cup with saucer
shape Black Coffee
80 ml
81.15856
Bone decorative plate
shape Smooth
D–155 mm
80.51497

Pattern Stenberg
Author S.Stenberg
Bone coffee cup with saucer
shape Black Coffee
80 ml
81.15879
Bone decorative plate
shape Smooth
D–155 mm
80.51548

Ash Tray, shape Eropean
pattern Red Square
80x60 mm
Author K. Malevich
80.51543

Decorative plate, shape Mazarin
pattern Red Rectangle
Author N. Suetin, 1923
D–265 mm
80.53947

Decorative plate, shape Mazarin
pattern Cubist
Author S. Chekhonin, 1919
D–265 mm
80.53945

Decorative plate, shape Mazarin
pattern At a Height of Science
Author S. Chekhonin, 1919
D–265 mm
80.54585

Decorative plate, shape Mazarin
pattern Sower
Author V. Belkin, 1920
D–265 mm
80.53946

Decorative plate, shape Mazarin
pattern Red
Author N. Lapshin, 1923
D–265 mm
80.53949