

# Polenovo museum invites you to the summer arts festival

Larisa Timofeeva.  
Photo by Alexey Piryazev.

The International Festival "In Search of the Promised Land" will be held in the museum-estate from 25 June to 30 July.

The festival "In Search of the Promised Land" is a new cultural bridge between the Polenovo estate, which became Vasily Polenov's de facto promised land, and the biblical promised land, which inspired the painter to create his main series of paintings. The festival will bring together art historians, musicians and performers from a range of genres. The festival's general sponsor is Shchekinoazot.

Visitors to the festival will enjoy a real creative marathon of events for the whole family: exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, fascinating lectures and workshops.

"There is a good reason for why the festival is called "In search of the Promised Land": Vasily Polenov travelled through the Middle East in search of



Basinia Shulman

historical truth and to confirm his vision of Biblical stories," says Basinia Shulman, festival curator. "The cultural mission of the summer festival is to show our guests the whole artistic diversity of Middle Eastern countries. That is why we invited famous musicians, writers, actors, lecturers and photo artists from different countries to participate."

According to Natalia Polenova, director of the Polenovo museum-nature reserve, this festival is another attempt to encourage people to leave the beach and to show that here, on the Oka River, in these beautiful places, you can have a barbecue, swim, sunbathe, but also to get to know the beautiful.

Polenovo has surprised us again. It seems that we have been here many times; almost every corner of the estate is familiar. But again and again you enjoy the stories about the life of the Polenov family, admire the fabulous views of nature and regret that this pearl is not closer to Tula.

It seems as if the estate is guarded from above. It was ignored by looting peasants after the revolution; the estate was not confiscated and it survived the wars with little loss. And this is



Vasily Polenov worked in the studio, which, both then and now, everyone calls an Abbey – a small Catholic church.



On Christmas Day, the Governor of the Tula region Alexei Dyumin presented the museum with Vasily Polenov's picture "Tiberias" from the cycle "From the Life of Christ". Natalia Polenova in the photo.

largely thanks to Vasily Polenov himself. In the early 1890s, he set up the first Russian artistic folk museum in the estate, and whole groups of peasants came on excursions.

Vasily Polenov saw places over the Oka in 1887 when he was passing by train. He burned with the idea of building an estate and living here with his whole family. His dream came true in 1890: the estate and more than 87 hectares of land passed into the possession of the Polenovs.

The artist designed all the buildings himself, mixing styles from different eras.

According to Natalia Polenova, "Vasily Polenov travelled a lot. When he was a student, he went to France, Italy, Germany as a guest of the Academy of Arts. There he saw the style of the German Middle

Ages, half-timbered houses and thatched roofs. And we maintain these buildings as close as possible to the original, so that everything is as it was during the artist's life". The exhibition "Vasily Polenov in the Holy Land", timed to coincide with the festival, is housed in the half-timbered barn.

The exhibition presents paintings and graphics from the museum's funds. This is the first experience of creating a fully-fledged exhibition dedicated to Polenov's journey to the East. Natalia Polenova says she dreams of one day opening an exhibition in Israel: "Pictures created in the Holy Land will return there. We have something to show!"

On 25 June, Polenovo will come alive: it will sing and dance with thousands of new tourists and actors who will come to the festival. The City of Masters

building already houses The Seven Keys exhibition by the wonderful artist Sofia Israel.

Rough stones are made of chamotte (a fire-resistant clay, burnt until plasticity is lost), and each of them contains something elegant: a trowel, columns, a book, a sword, the Holy Grail, a book, a chain, a plate.

Sofia Israel says that, "the seven stones are like seven keys to a secret. I created all seven stones in two months. If such a



Sofia Israel

stone sat on the street for a couple of years, it would be overgrown with moss and look real. I worked in Polenovo, which has a potter's wheel and a stove. This place was very inspiring".

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### MIRACULOUS SUNDAYS

can be spent with the whole family at the festival "In Search of the Promised Land" in Polenovo.

### Festival timetable

**25 June.** Opening of the exhibition "Vasily Polenov in the Holy Land", dedicated to the artist's famous "Gospel Cycle". Dgani Tsabari (Israel) – a singer (jazz, ethno-jazz).

**2 July.** Lecture by Yossi Tavor (Israel) "Blinded by the Sun". Concert by Basem Al-Ashkar, virtuoso player of the oud, an Arabic stringed instrument, with the Moscow Andalusian ensemble.

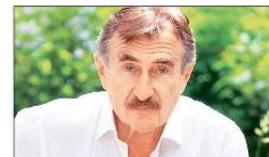
**9 July.** Lecture by Pavel Kryuchkov "Jewish Questions in the works of Korney Chukovsky". Creative evening with Dina Rubina (Israel).



**16 July.** Lecture by Dmitry Mazo (Israel) "The White City". Concert by Alon Arari (countertenor, Israel) and Gideon Bretler (guitar, Israel).

**23 July.** Lecture by Alexander Okun (Israel) "A Great Adventure and a Great Deception". A concert of early musical instruments by La Villa Barocca ensemble.

**30 July.** "Where the Shulamite wandered...". A theatrical and musical production performed by Leonid Kanevsky (artistic reading) and Basinia Shulman (piano). Concert by the Lakochka klezmer-ensemble.



The list of events includes the "Seven Keys" exhibition by the sculptor Sophia Israel and "The White City of Tel Aviv" by the photographer Alexei Naroditsky, as well as a screening of the film "The Gospel Circle of Vasily Polenov". There will be children's programs and workshops throughout the festival. The Mark and Lev restaurant will offer a menu of oriental cuisine.

You can buy tickets to all festival events at [Myslo.ru/kassa](http://Myslo.ru/kassa).

КУПИТЬ БИЛЕТ  
[MYSLO.RU/KASSA](http://MYSLO.RU/KASSA)

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