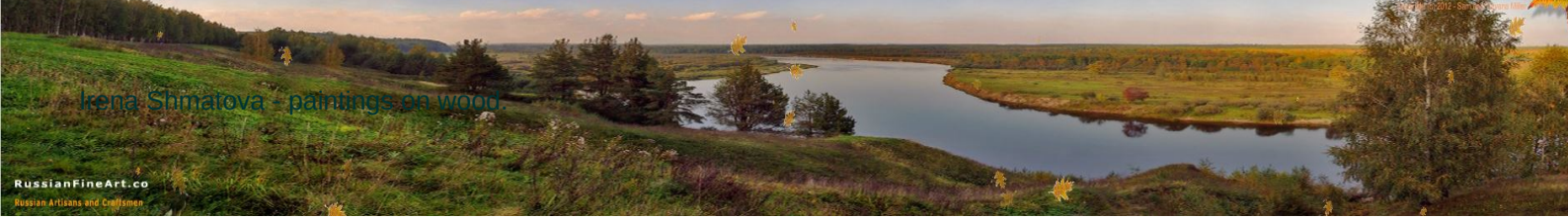

Irena Shmatova - paintings on wood.

The day of 02/15/1978 was an important event in Irena’s family --
it was the day when she was born.
All her relatives had great influence on building her character.
Her mother’s grandfather was a cabinet maker.
After the revolution of 1917,
he fled to Tambov region and led double life
making standard casual furniture at work and beautiful carved one at home.
Living among pretty things made Irena start painting.
Her first work was made on new and expensive wallpapers as a gift
for her mother on Woman’s day (March, 8).
This made her relatives realize that she also needed some painting lessons,
which she soon began taking at Art school.
Nobody knew then that the art could be the devotion of her life.
Her Grandparents were military officers, father was a criminalist, mother was an engineer and
she was supposed to continue the career of a person who had nothing to do with the art.
But Irena realized that being a lawyer, she would make good living and prosperous retirement,
but she might never reach the retirement age because she would die of boredom of being a lawyer.

To prove that she could do well on her own,
she entered the art college in Lugansk, which was 1200 km away
from home and then Design and Art Academy.
17 years of studying art made her realize that it is important
that the painter should be sincere and not hide behind cliché and technique.
Skills are good, but the Artist opens the door to the other worlds,
and these worlds should not be empty or dull.

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