

Mineral Photos at the "Virgin Russia" Exposition

6th Festival "Virgin Russia" was held in the Central Art House, Moscow from February 20 to March 11, 2017. Festival is the federal project supported by the grant of the President of Russian Federation. The Festival's aim is to present natural beauties of Russia, its remote corners and an unspoiled environment. Upon completion, the Exhibition moves to the other cities of Russia and then abroad. The Organizing Committee selects photos of many thousand works sent from all over the country. Some photos are result of special, sometimes multi-year expeditions supported by the Russian Geographical Society. Photos in various genres were displayed. However, the main features combining all works are unique story and perfect quality, which were present for each of them.

For the second year, minerals of Russia were presented at the Festival. Special stands were designed for photos "Classic Minerals of Russia". This exposition was initiated and organized by Leonid M. Ioffe, collector (his site "Mineraly ot Leonida /Minerals from Leonid").

This year, the photographs of minerals were represented by Boris Z. Kantor, Michael B. Leybov, Vera A. Minaeva, and Timofey V. Pashko. Besides classical photos of specimens (Boris Z. Kantor and Vera A. Minaeva) and landscape pictures created by mineral formations (Michael B. Leybov), visitors were being invited to the mineral microworld created by Timofey V. Pashko. These fascinated images are even inaccessible for the naked eye. These photos seem to show a miracle Universe. The mineral microworld is really boundless. A photographer is awaited here by a lot of dramatic discoveries, unusual combinations of colors and uncommon shapes. To open a window on this world for a searching glance of a concerned viewer is a really appreciative aim.

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1. **Malachite**. Rubtsovskoe Deposit, Altai, Russia. Image height 0.6 cm. Specimen and photo: Timofey V. Pashko.

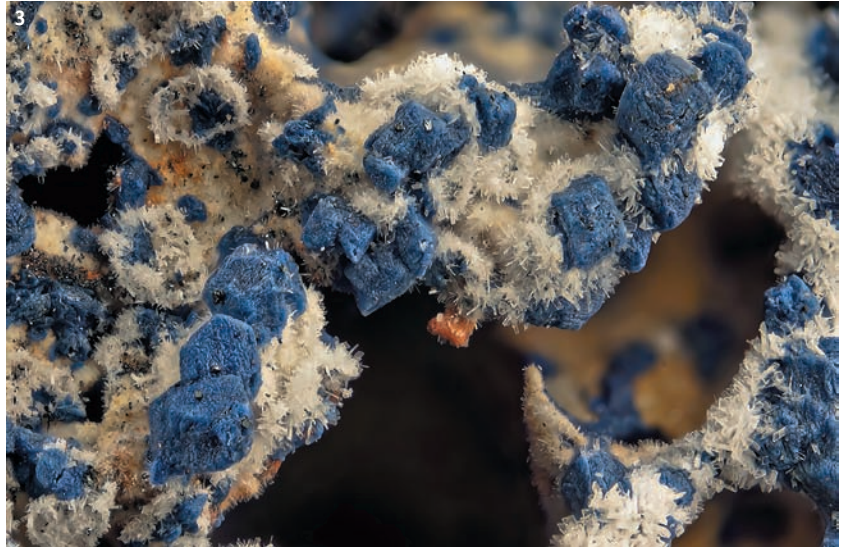
2. **Villiaumite** with **aegirine** crystals. Koashva Quarry, Khibiny, Kola Peninsula, Murmansk Oblast, Russia. Image height 0.6 cm. Specimen and photo: Timofey V. Pashko.



3. Bradaczekite.

Tolbachik Volcano, Kamchatka, Russia. Image width 0.5 cm.

Specimen and photo: Timofey V. Pashko.



4. Moss agate. Kheta River, Yenisei, Russia, Krasnoyarskii krai, Russia. Image size: 3 x 2 cm. Specimen and photo: Michael B. Leybov.

5. Agate. Karadag Massif, Serdolikovaya Cove, Koktebel, Crimea. Image size: 10 x 6.5 cm. Specimen and photo: Michael B. Leybov.

6. Calcite.

Dal'negorsk, Primorskii krai, Russia. Crystal height 6 cm. Specimen and photo: Boris Z. Kantor.

7. Anapaite. Second Chernomorskii mine, Chelyadinovo Village, Kerch Peninsula, Crimea. Crystal width 1.1 cm. Specimen: Leonid M. Ioffe, find of 2016. Photo: Vera A. Minaeva.

