

# A Homespun Life: Textiles of Old Russia

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) is pleased to present the traveling exhibition **A Homespun Life: Textiles of Old Russia**. Traditional clothing tangibly reveals the beliefs and lifestyles of past generations in this remarkable collection featuring approximately 130 authentic objects that date back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These include about 45 embroidered towels from the northern provinces of Russia, 9 costumes, 9 *prialka* spinning tools (also known as dystaffs), 3 antique dolls, traditional footwear, woolen, silk and cotton scarfs, head dresses, and other objects. The specific form of Russian traditional dress began to develop in the 9-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, and, until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, it was worn by peasants and noblemen alike. Tsar Peter the Great, with his admiration for Western-European culture, destroyed this tradition. In 1700, Peter issued a decree banning traditional dress for Russian citizens, with the exception of peasants and priests. The time-honored tradition of Russian attire began to be seen as outdated. It was Russian peasantry who preserved the richness and beauty of the age-old Russian ethnic culture of textiles. Twentieth-century Soviet modernization largely destroyed traditional Russian culture, but many remarkable objects have survived to bring to view a lifestyle long gone. A Russian peasant household made wide use of textiles and produced textiles of outstanding beauty embroidered with intricate patterns and decorated with homemade lace. Authentic examples featured in the exhibition include towels, bed skirts, pillow covers, tablecloths, as well as garments such as shirts, 'sarafans', skirts, headdresses, aprons and scarves.



## Exhibition Components

- 130 textiles including sets
- Installation design
- 2 paintings
- 1 case for textile display
- Packing and crating
- Wall labels and interpretive panels
- Graphic design kit for invitations and printed materials
- K-6 educational materials
- Docent training materials

<b>Size</b>	Approximately 550 sq. ft
<b>Availability</b>	2011 - 2013
<b>Bookings</b>	12 weeks
<b>Fee</b>	\$25,000 + pro-rated shipping
<b>Security</b>	Medium

Installation photos of the exhibition are available on TMORA's FTP site at <http://ftp2.tmora.org> (Username: traveling; Password: exhibits). Didactics are available upon request.

For more information, contact Lana Gendlin Brooks, Director of Operations, at The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55419, [lbrooks@tmora.org](mailto:lbrooks@tmora.org) or [www.tmora.org](http://www.tmora.org) or 612-821-9045.