

Volunteers continued

Part of the solution lies in attracting individuals from the growing base of museum guests who have the time, interest and flexibility of schedule to become active volunteer associates at TMORA. "One does not need to be a Russian historian to be an effective volunteer," Shinkle commented. "The museum needs enthusiastic assistance in many different areas including special event planning, tour leadership and visitor reception. The Museum will provide volunteers with all appropriate training," he added.

In recognition of the contribution of their time and energy, volunteers will be recognized in Museum publications, receive preferential notice of limited seating events and obtain complimentary copies of selected Museum literature. Tour guide training sessions will begin in April.

A volunteer application form can be requested by calling the Museum receptionist at 952-914-0200 or by contacting Brad Shinkle at: bshinkle@tmora.org.



Museum Publishes its First Reference Book

Incorporated as a tax-exempt, non-profit educational corporation, TMORA in its mission statement reflects a commitment to support the expansion of original, English language research into 20th century Russian painting. Last September the Museum introduced the first of which is expected to be a continuing series of books. "Masters of Russian Impressionism-Sergei & Aleksei P. Tkachev," is written by Aleksandr Sidorov of the Russian Academy of Art. This 180-page, hardcover book provides a retrospective assessment of the careers of the Brothers Tkachev who are recognized throughout

Russia as being among the most widely respected and acclaimed painters of the Soviet and post-Soviet period. The Tkachev's book was introduced simultaneously in Moscow in conjunction with the opening of an exhibition of the Tkachev brothers' paintings celebrating Sergei Petrovich's 80th birthday. The book is available at the Museum for \$60 plus tax, shipping and handling.

The Museum also offers additional English language reference books on Russian Impressionist paintings, such as Soviet Impressionism, by Vern G. Swanson, Ph.D., in which a number of paintings from TMORA are pictured. Refer to our web site at www.tmora.org for details and ordering instructions.



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TMORA Receives IRS Approval

In December 2002 the Internal Revenue Service formally accepted The Museum of Russian Art's application as a tax-exempt organization. TMORA operates as a non-profit educational corporation under Section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue code. The favorable ruling by the IRS permits individuals, corporation or foundations to make gifts to the Museum that are fully deductible on their tax returns to the extent permitted by federal and their respective state tax regula-



tions. The Museum of Russian Art is dependent upon the generous financial support of private individuals and organizations, since it receives no financial support from any federal, state or local governmental agency.

The Society of The Museum of Russian Art has been established as a vehicle through which individuals can direct their gifts to the Museum. Membership in the Society is completely voluntary and the financial support generated by membership dues is applied to the general operating costs of the Museum. The Museum does not currently charge an admission fee to its exhibitions or its educational events.

Information regarding alternative levels of Society membership is available on the Museum web site: www.TMORA.org or by calling the Museum at 952-914-0200 to request a membership brochure.



EDUARD G. BRAGOVSKI
LOGGING ON THE VETLUGA
1964
59 x 79 inches
Oil on canvas

Minnesota's Museum of Russian Art Contributes Paintings to Tretyakov Exhibit Commemorating Artists' Union Centennial

When "Styles of Russian Impressionist Painting," an exhibit of 200 paintings by the Russian Federation's most respected artists, opens May 29 at the Tretyakov Gallery, it will include 25 paintings arranged by TMORA. The Moscow exhibit celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Union of Russian Artists and has drawn on the Tretyakov's own collection for all but the paintings from TMORA.

The impressionist tradition emanated from the Moscow School of painting that started in the early 20th century and continued through the late 1970s. Within that time frame, a number of styles were developed by renowned artists such as Geli Korzhev, Sergei and Aleksei P. Tkachev, Vasili Nechitailo, Igor A. Popov, Vladimir F. Stozharov and Aleksei M. Gritsai, among others. Examples of the classical, academic and severe styles chart the development of the Moscow School artists while depicting Soviet society throughout this dramatic era beginning in 1903. Portraits, landscapes and genre paintings show life as it was lived in the villages, in the cities, by farmers, workers and students. The rich tapestry of history unfolds through these paintings and offers insights into seven decades of Russian culture.

The exhibit has been curated by Natalia Alexandrova of the Tretyakov Gallery's department of painting of the second half of the 20th century, and Raymond E. Johnson, founder of The Museum of Russian Art. Deputy Director Aleksandr Morozov, who conceived the idea for the exhibit, is scholar administrator.

The private opening reception will be hosted by V. A. Rodionov, general director of the Tretyakov Gallery. Honored guests will include many of the artists whose works are on exhibit, representatives of various business enterprises, and friends of the Tretyakov Gallery. "Styles of Russian Impressionist Painting" opens to the public May 30 and extends through July 27.



The Museum of Russian Art

11300 Hampshire Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438-2400

The Museum of Russian Art Celebrates Introductory Exhibition

On Thursday, September 26, 2002 TMORA opened its galleries to the public with introduction of its initial exhibition titled "Cultural Horizons of Soviet Art." Built around a total of 106 original paintings from the Soviet era between 1935 and 1975, the exhibition provided visitors with an exciting cross section of Russian Realist paintings in the Impressionist style.

Visitors to TMORA were welcomed to a 4,000 square feet display area which included three separate exhibition galleries. Paintings in the exhibition were loaned to the Museum from the collection of Ray and Susan Johnson, as well as from other private collectors from throughout the U.S. The "Cultural Horizons of Soviet Art" exhibition was carefully structured to include an exceptional variety of portrait, landscape, still life and Russian genre subjects to provide American viewers with a first hand experience of the visual diversity of 20th century Russian Realist artwork.

The Museum's opening generated considerable interest among local, regional and international media. A major story written by the Associated Press appeared in more than 40 newspapers across the country. TMORA staff was also interviewed by the Moscow Times, one of the leading English language papers in the Russian Federation, and the resulting article was reprinted in part by a Russian language periodical in the Twin Cities! More than 4,000 visitors attended the exhibit during its 10 week posting.



Russian Impressionist Paintings Loaned to Florida, Iowa Museums

Continuing the tradition of raising awareness of Russian Impressionism throughout the United States, The Museum of Russian Art and the Johnson Collection have assisted in curating and furnishing paintings for exhibits at the Florida International Museum, St. Petersburg and The Brunnier Art Museum at Iowa State University, Ames. Some three dozen paintings are included in the Florida event, which extends through April 30. The Brunnier exhibit, entitled "From Russian Easels: 20th Century Realist & Impressionist Paintings," is comprised of 72 paintings. It runs from August 18 through January 4, 2004.

Since 1994, the Johnsons have loaned portions of their collection for 14 museum exhibits in the United States.

ALEKSANDR F. BURAK **YOUNG SKIER**
1953 31 3/8 x 23 1/8 inches Oil on canvas

Poster image for the Florida International Museum



M. SARCHENKOVA **THE BRIDESMAIDS** 1989 47 1/2 x 55 1/2 inches Oil on canvas
One of 72 paintings in the exhibit at The Brunnier Art Museum

Spring Exhibition *Benchmarks of Soviet Society*

An exhibition of nearly 100 Impressionist paintings from the Soviet era and seminars by an American art historian and three native Russian speakers present an important part of USSR history in the Museum's second exhibit that opened March 6. "Benchmarks of Soviet Society" explores various facets of life in Russia between 1917 and 1991 in paintings that record historical events, locations and lifestyle scenes.

The first speaker, Professor Mary Perry, Ph.D, from the University of Texas, Arlington, addressed the topic of "Women in the Soviet Union: Myths, Memories and Memorials," on March 29. Illustrating her remarks were paintings by some of the period's most famous artists, including Vasili Nechitailo, Geli Korzhev, Vladimir Serov, Nina Veselova and Sergei and Aleksei Tkachev.

There is no admission charge for the exhibit or the seminars, but space for these seminars is limited, and members are encouraged to call to reserve seating: 952-914-0200. On Seminar Saturdays the museum will be open from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Seminars are scheduled from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Following are other speakers and their topics:

April 12: Jacob Mankovich
St. Louis Park Jewish Community Center
"The Individual in a Collective Socialist Society"

April 26: Prof. Tamara Mikhailova
Macalester College
"The Symbolism & Significance of Mother Russia"

May 10: Assoc. Prof. Irina Corten
University of Minnesota
"Pre/ Post Stalin: The Impact on Soviet Youth & Education"

"Benchmarks of Soviet Society" will extend through May 30. Regular visitor hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



VASIL K. NECHITAILO **LABOR BRIGADE**
1964 31 3/4 x 39 1/2 inches Oil on canvas

Ray & Susan Johnson Named In Top 100 Collectors by Art & Antiques Magazine

TMORA founder Raymond E. Johnson and his wife Susan were named by Art & Antiques magazine in their Top 100 Collectors in America. In the magazine's March, 2003 cover story, the Johnsons were honored for their ongoing efforts encouraging a wider population to become better acquainted with the most gifted Russian painters of the Soviet era, most notably with the establishment of TMORA.

"I have dedicated the last 14 years of my life to introducing this great art to America. What an honor it is to receive this recognition from the art community," Mr. Johnson said.

Art & Antiques is one of the art world's most esteemed publications. Collectors were chosen based on two main criteria. First, each of the collectors has an outstanding collection of art or antiques of quality and/or historical importance. The second criterion is the extent to which the collectors' philanthropic pursuits reflect their collecting passion.



Susan & Raymond E. Johnson in front of Sergei and Alexei Tkachev's "Post Girl in Winter," 1951.

Surround Yourself with Beautiful Art:

Volunteers Give and Receive

The ambitious exhibition and educational schedule of events at the Museum has underlined the important role that museum volunteers can play in implementing our public programs. Bradford Shinkle, IV, president of the Museum, summarized the situation: "The very enthusiastic public response to the opening of this Museum has created a demand from our visitors for an increased level of services. Among other requests, TMORA is being asked to provide extended visitor hours, guided tours, and a catalog of the permanent collection. These are all worthy initiatives, but they currently exceed the Museum's modest level of staff support."

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A 10-minute video entitled "Sergei & Aleksei P. Tkachev: Masters of Russian Impressionism" has won a Telly Award for Excellence in Midwest competition. The tape records a visit by Ray Johnson to the famed brothers and their family in their dacha near Moscow and the Academic Dacha. The video may be viewed at The Museum of Russian Art.

TMORA is a member of the American Association of Museums.