

Museum Shop Features International 'Treasures'

Susan Johnson, who with her husband, Raymond, founded The Museum of Russian Art, has avidly researched the museum shop business for the past 15 years, ever since the couple began collecting Russian art of the Soviet period. Two years ago she set in motion a purchasing plan and began collecting the items that make up the museum shop's current merchandise. "I love beautiful things in which the quality is readily apparent," Ms. Johnson says. "Some of the hand-crafted lace we are showing is made by women who are carrying on the traditions and methods of their great-grandmothers. Having the opportunity to see them at work and to visit with them is tremendously satisfying. Then, bringing their work here to the museum to share with visitors is another reward for seeking out these talented artisans."

The 900-sq. ft. shop, which opened Sept. 1, retains the vaulted, beamed ceiling and decorative windows from the original church and is located adjacent to the mezzanine level galleries. It offers a wide array of ornaments, jewelry, clothing, home decorations and other items from Russia, countries of the former Soviet Union, France, Italy and the United States. "Many of the vases, ceramics, crystals, linens and amber jewelry are truly unique. They are original designs by individual artisans," said Melanie Brooks, TMORA's designer and buyer. "With

\$2.95 bookmarks to an \$8,000 hand-crafted armoire, this shop has something extraordinary for everyone."

Books and posters, book marks and note cards published by the museum are now carried in the gift shop. In addition, hand-carved wooden trunks, chests and an armoire were designed as displays by one of Russia's foremost artists of marquetry. "Music boxes from Italy, china from St. Petersburg, journals and photo albums printed in the United States, along with Faberge crystal, allow visitors to take with them permanent reminders of the art they have seen in the museum," Ms. Brooks said. The children's section features marionettes, toys, books of Russian stories, and crafts, both fun and educational, as well as a host of other children's items. For shoppers' convenience, the store offers complimentary self-service coffee.



Volunteer Inna Guseva modeled a hand-crafted Russian cape at a Museum Store opening event.

Susan Johnson and Melanie Brooks are the designers and buyers of giftware from many countries now offered in the Museum Store.



Photo by Scott Jacobson



Event photo by Suzanne McDonough



Shoppers looked at porcelain from St. Petersburg, stemware from Lithuania, children's toys and a host of giftware and jewelry from countries around the world.

A hand-painted silk scarf, ceramics, crystal, lacquer boxes and amber jewelry are just a few of the unique items available at the museum shop.

Children's Play Scheduled for November 12

'A Russian Winter's Tale' Brings Fairy Tales to Life

A craggy old witch who has been simply misunderstood? A big, bad wolf who doesn't even like the taste of children? Professional actors Dawn Brodey and Eric Webster, who have starred in "Tina and Tony's Wedding," as well as many other theatrical productions, have written an original script, the tunes and lyrics for the 45-minute interactive musical. Entitled "Snegurochka's n Babushkas," the play is a fairy tale concocted as "A Russian Winter's Night." Drawing on various sources from myth and legend, the duo will perform the various roles of Baba Yaga the witch, Father Winter and Mother Spring, among others. They will be wearing authentic Russian costumes. Three musicians, a third actor and a narrator complete the cast.

The show is geared towards children from three to twelve, but Ms. Brodey predicts that parents will enjoy the repartee between the characters. "It's fun, educational and laced with gentle lessons that kids can take home with them," she said. "They can sing along with the narrator as well as help Snegurochka, the Snow Maiden, hide from the sun. We plan to engage them throughout the play."

Staged on the seminar level of The Museum of Russian Art, the play is open to the public. Two performances are scheduled

Nov. 12 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is \$10 per person. Please call 612-821-9045, ext. 3 for tickets.



The Museum of Russian Art

5500 Stevens Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419

Non-profit org.
US postage
PAID
Permit No. 2431
Mpls. MN

Coming Events at The Museum of Russian Art

2005

October 8
Closing of Works on Paper

October 13
Opening: *Windows to Heaven: 500 Years of Iconography*

October 15
Lecture and Reception:
Gordon Lankton, Collector and Founder of The Museum of Russian Icons
3:00 p.m.
Admission \$5 per person.
Reservations recommended.

November 12
"A Russian Winter's Tale: Snegurochka's & Babushkas"
Two Performances:
10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Admission: \$10 each
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Reserve early to avoid disappointment.

2006

January 14
Russian Icons Seminar:
Dr. Wendy Salmond, Chapman University, San Diego, CA.
3:00 p.m.
Admission: \$5 per person

April 14
Opening: Exhibition of Official and Non-Conformist Art
Watch for further information in Spring 2006

For all reservations call 612-821-9045, extension 3.

In The Russian Tradition Attendance Exceeds 12,000



Ray and Susan Johnson (center) were joined in the ribbon-cutting ceremony by (from left) Trustees Dr. Duane Engstrom and Eric Lorentzen, Boris Marchuk, Senior Consul from the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. and Valentin Rodionov, Director General of the State Tretyakov Museum, Moscow.

The Museum of Russian Art reopened in May with a gala reception with balalaika players, local dignitaries, and the unveiling of the *In the Russian Tradition* exhibition. The first event in its new location, the exhibition featured 27 paintings from the State Tretyakov Museum in Moscow and 24 from the collections of Ray and Susan Johnson and other American collectors. The exhibition hung at the Smithsonian Institution's International Gallery from December, 2004 through April, 2005.

More than 300 people attended the reception, setting a precedent for the rest of the three-month show. Visitors expressed strong enthusiasm for the museum's new location. As Brian Sandberg of *The Rake* magazine stated: (The museum is) "an exquisite new home befitting the art inside." Three educational seminars presented in conjunction with the opening exhibit were filled to capacity. The overwhelmingly positive critical reaction to *In the Russian Tradition*, combined with record attendance numbers confirm TMORA's place as an important cultural and educational resource in the Twin Cities area.



Photo by Thomas Lee
President Bradford Shinkle, IV and country music star Ronnie Dunn, a major donor to The Museum of Russian Art.



TMORA is located at I-35W and Diamond Lake Road in Minneapolis

Diversity of Styles and Subjects Mark Autumn Exhibition

Following the successful *In the Russian Tradition*, the fall exhibition, *Perspectives of Russian Art*, reflects the aesthetic energy that characterizes the work of three generations of Russian artists. Twenty-eight artists whose work had not yet been displayed in the museum's new location join selected works from TMORA's permanent collection, the collection of Ray and Susan Johnson, and that of other American collectors in an expansive exhibit that opened Aug. 5. Although the exhibition closes on Nov. 5, a number of these paintings will continue to be on display through mid-January.

"*Perspectives* provides a broad survey of 20th-century Russian art that allows visitors to see that Soviet art was not limited to highly politicized portrait or poster art. From the idealism of the Itinerants to the cynicism of the Severe Style artists, the exhibit captures the many emotions of the individual artists and



A Sunny Day by Mai Dantsig

the myriad artistic movements of the past 100 years of Russian art," according to TMORA President Bradford Shinkle IV. Some highlights are *The Washing Woman* by the two Tkachev brothers, who worked jointly on the same canvases, employing a technique called 'brigade painting, as well as the work of Mai Dantsig, Nikolai Timkov and Vladimir Stozharov, three of the best painters of the high Socialist Realist era.

A separate exhibition of works on paper hangs in the Fireside Gallery. Etchings, drawings and sketches demonstrate the skill of Russian artists' composition and draftsmanship in their most natural form. This part of the exhibition closes Oct. 8 to prepare the space for the iconography display opening Oct. 13.

Admission is \$5 for adults. Students and seniors may make a voluntary donation. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors are asked to park across the street in the Mayflower Church lot rather than on the street. A preview of *Perspectives in Russian Art* is on the web site: www.tmora.org

TMORA ~ An Artful Setting for Corporate Entertaining

The Museum of Russian Art is available for corporate events, business meetings and selected social gatherings. With its combination of refurbished, Spanish-revival style architecture and its unsurpassed collection of Russian realist paintings, TMORA is a welcoming yet distinctive and impressive venue. Our house caterer, the nationally recognized restaurateur D'Amico and Sons, offers a variety of options with their extensive menu. For more information on availability, conditions of rent and costs call (612) 821-9045, extension 31.



- Volunteers Welcome -

If You Like Visiting TMORA, Imagine Volunteering Here!

The Museum of Russian Art isn't just a great place to visit, it's also a great place to volunteer. Volunteers have the opportunity to further their knowledge of Russian art, as well as to help one of Minneapolis' premiere cultural institutions. As long-time volunteer Alex Starace has said, "It's fun and low-stress and I'm on a first-name basis with the director of the museum. This is one of the few institutions where volunteers have a significant impact on day-to-day operations and the health of the museum as a whole."

Currently, with extended hours, the new museum store, and upcoming corporate events, volunteers are more important than ever. The schedule is flexible and volunteers receive benefits: they are often the first to know about future events and frequently receive exclusive educational opportunities. If interested, please contact Lynda Holker at (612) 821-9045, extension 31.

Windows to Heaven
Oct. 13, 2005 - Jan. 14, 2006

Historic Icons Coming to TMORA in October



Gordon Lankton

In collaboration with The Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, Mass., TMORA will host *Windows to Heaven: 500 Years of Iconography*, an exhibition of approximately 50 exceptional examples of Russian iconography. These icons represent a diverse history of more than five centuries of Russian religious art and are on loan from the Gordon Lankton Collection. Included in the exhibit is an icon of Our Lady of Tenderness, which dates to circa 1500, as well as many other outstanding examples of various styles of Russian iconography.

Icon painting is one of the most important and distinctive forms of Russia's cultural heritage, especially in light of its religious and historic nature. On Oct. 15, Mr. Lankton, the collector and founder of The Museum of Russian Icons, will present a



Our Lady Hodigitria



Prophet Elijah



St. John the Baptist

lecture on his collection. Presented as the museum's Art on the Town event, the lecture will begin at 3 p.m., followed by a reception for Mr. Lankton. Admission is \$5.00 and reservations are recommended. Please call 612-821-9045, ext. 3.

TMORA is cover story of *Architecture Minnesota*

The Museum of Russian Art's five million dollar renovation of the former Mayflower Church hasn't just won the praise of patrons - it's also impressed architects and lovers of renovation, as evidenced by the cover story of the September-October issue of *Architecture Minnesota*. The article, entitled "Amazing Grace" written by Mason Riddle, notes that, "If God is in the details, God is very pleased with TMORA. The Julie Snow design team has transformed the church, and yet the spirit and serenity of the original ecclesiastical architecture remain."



Hailed as a superb blending of aesthetics and functionality, as a melding of Spanish and Russian, and of church and museum, the new building on Diamond Lake Road has already displayed some of the world's finest art - TMORA's inaugural exhibition was on display at the Smithsonian's International Gallery in Washington, D.C. before it came to Minneapolis.

Both in terms of prestige and aesthetic appeal, The Museum of Russian Art has come a long way since it moved from its original home in an office park in suburban Bloomington. Such a significant transformation could not have taken place without the many members of The Society of the Museum of Russian Art, nor could it have been accomplished without the support of a few significant donors who trusted Ray and Susan Johnson's vision of making TMORA one of the elite museums in the nation. Already TMORA has been cited as one of the "Seven Must-See Museums" in the country by USA Weekend magazine and has been favorably reviewed by some of the country's leading periodicals. To build on this momentum, the museum needs the continued support of additional donors that will help TMORA launch an expansion program, another internationally-renowned exhibition or acquire major new paintings. To learn more about TMORA's exciting future plans, contact President Bradford Shinkle IV at 612-821-9045, ext. 30.

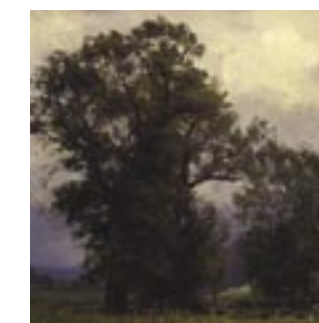
TMORA'S Paintings to be Showcased at the Guggenheim in Manhattan

Twenty-five paintings from The Museum of Russian Art and the Ray and Susan Johnson Collection will be presented at the Sackler Center for Arts Education at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. The exhibition, *Reflections: Socialist Realism and Russian Art*, is part of an educational exhibition accompanying *RUSSIA!*, the most comprehensive exhibition of Russian art ever shown in the United States, currently on view at the Guggenheim. It provides a unique insight into Russian life and culture by highlighting key themes and issues, as well as addressing the myths and misconceptions that are frequently associated with Russian paintings from this period.

Kim Kanatani, director of education at the Guggenheim, said, "This exhibition will provide our museum visitors with a dynamic introduction to Socialist Realist painting by posing specific insights and multiple viewpoints through which to reconsider Russian art and culture, in general. We are most grateful to the Johnsons and The Museum of Russian Art for providing viewers with such a stunning visual narrative and invaluable educational context for *RUSSIA!*"



GELI KORZHEV
TEAPOT AND OLD RUSSIAN VESSEL
25½ x 31½ inches
1977 Oil on canvas



Clockwise from top:
ALEKSANDR D. ROMANYCHEV
BY THE WINDOW
47 x 39½ inches
1968-71 Oil on canvas

GELI KORZHEV
BEFORE A LONG JOURNEY
35 x 47 inches
1970-76 Oil on canvas

ALEKSEI & SERGEI P. TKACHEV
POST GIRL IN WINTER
50 x 38 inches
1951 Oil on canvas