

Current & Future Events

February 2 – August 30, 2009

Russkiy Salon: Select Favorites and Newly Revealed Works | *Russkiy Salon* will feature some of the most remarkable paintings exhibited at TMORA over the past six years. Since the day of the museum's inauguration in April 2002, these paintings have become treasured favorites. This unique exhibition allows art-lovers the opportunity to



"First of May Celebration"
Yuri Ivanovich Pimenov
1950 101 x 43"
Oil on Canvas

reacquaint themselves with familiar masterpieces and discover new paintings displayed for the first time. Approximately 54 paintings will be on view including the beloved *Milkmaids*, *Novella* by Nikolai N. Baskakov, the dramatic and evocative *Unmade Bed* by Mai Dantsig, and many other outstanding examples of 20th century Russian art. The exhibition will also include more than 20 pieces that have not been previously displayed. Among them is a restored epic work (pictured) by the eminent Soviet artist Yuri Pimenov. This piece is part of TMORA's permanent collection, and will be on display for the first time in the US.

Main and Mezzanine Level Galleries

March 7 – September 20, 2009

Postage Stamps: Messengers of the Soviet Future

Spanning nearly 100 years of illustrative history, this exhibition traces the evolution of a country through the impactful images contained on postage stamps. The stamps, rich in artistry and visual eloquence, communicated the Soviet Union's aspirational utopian vision to the people of the USSR and around the world. On exclusive display at TMORA, this original exhibition features approximately 300 rare stamps on loan from a private collector.

"Although small, the stamps reveal a mastery of illustration and design," said TMORA Director Judi Dutcher.

The first Soviet stamps issued right after the Bolshevik Revolution ushered in a new era of breaking away from all traditions. These beautifully designed stamps reveal key projects the country aspired to—including public architecture, fleets of blimps, and a happy and healthy Soviet people the state hoped would become reality. Stamps reflecting these and other Soviet projects, from the time of the revolution through the 1950s, will be represented in this new exhibit, along with examples of pre-revolutionary Imperial stamps.

Lower Gallery



Soviet Flag and Airplanes at the North Pole, 40 and 80 kopecks
1938 40 x 28 mm each Typograph

On August 26, 2008, The Museum of Russian Art hosted the first installment of Vita.mn's **SALON SERIES**, a new regular program that brings amazing art and innovative cultural experiences exclusively to its readers. Over 400 guests enjoyed appetizers and drinks amid the beautiful art on display. Lana Gendlin Brooks, Director of Operations for TMORA, and Kevin Smith, CEO and

Director of The Minnesota Opera, made opening remarks, followed by the highlight of the evening, a private recital and Q&A given by the Russian stars of The Minnesota Opera's production, *Il trovatore*. Thanks to the amazing operatic talents of Mlada Khudoley, Olga Savova and Avgust Amonov, together with the organization of Vita.mn and TMORA, the event was a huge success!



Photos Morgan Sheff Photography

TMORA Welcomes Five New Trustees

This fall, TMORA's Board of Trustees was expanded to include five new members. These new leaders bring varied and impressive backgrounds that will help the museum fulfill its mission of Education, Enlightenment & Engagement through the art of Russia. The new Trustees are:

Greg Appelhof ~ As President and CEO of Technology Resource Group in Minneapolis, Greg brings nearly 25 years of business acumen in the high-tech sector. His wealth of experience and success in the for-profit world will serve him well as a Board member in the non-profit sphere. Greg's passion for the arts was instilled at a young age as his mother, Dr. Ruth Appelhof, is the Director of Guild Hall in East Hampton, New York. Greg lives in Hopkins with his wife Lisa and their four children.

Maria Cino ~ Maria has over two decades of experience in senior level positions in the executive and legislative branches of government, as well as the private sector. Most recently, Maria served as President and CEO of the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul. Prior to this, Maria served as Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation from May 2005 through March 2007. Maria has traveled to Russia on numerous occasions and has a passion for Russian art.

Gayle DeVries ~ Gayle is a community volunteer with a background in

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President Dutcher Visits Russia



TMORA President Judi Dutcher in St. Petersburg's famous Palace Square.

This fall, TMORA President and Director Judi Dutcher traveled to Russia twice in the span of just two months. Both trips significantly raised the museum's profile within the international arts community.

Judi first spent two weeks in St. Petersburg in late August and early September as a Cultural Fellow of the Likhachev Foundation. She was selected from dozens of applicants along with eight other American writers, scholars, and museum professionals whose work revolves around various aspects of Russian culture. The goal of the program was to broaden and deepen America's appreciation of Russian culture, art, and literature. TMORA is proud to support this objective as the only American museum dedicated solely to Russian art and culture.

Participants followed an individualized schedule organized by the Foundation. Each Fellow's itinerary was tailored to their areas of professional interest. Judi met with numerous museum representatives in the historic cultural capital of Russia. Included among her meetings were visits with the deputy director of the Hermitage, curators from the State Russian Museum, and the head of the cultural committee for St. Petersburg, a state sponsored cultural organization. She also made visits to working artists in their studios.

As a guest of the Likhachev Foundation, Judi was granted exclusive behind-the-scenes access at museums. She was shown many works of art that have never been on public display. Her ideas for future shows at TMORA, featuring some of these works, were met with enthusiasm.

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TMORA Meets its Neighbors

On Saturday, September 6th, TMORA staff and volunteers participated in the Windom Fall Festival, an annual community gathering named for the neighborhood in which TMORA resides. Assistant to the President Misha Dashevsky, along with volunteers Luda Lobenko and Patty Connelly, staffed an informational table featuring TMORA books and brochures, as well as sample items from the Izba. As seen in the photo, Luda wore a traditional Russian folk costume.

The late summer warmth allowed participants to set up outdoors in a lot adjacent to the Windom Open School, located a mile southwest of TMORA. Several hundred Windom residents attended. After mingling with Luda, Misha, Patty

and representatives from other community groups or small businesses, visitors also enjoyed food, live music, and even a petting zoo!



As expected in Minnesota, the weather turned uncooperative near the end of the event, but as Misha said, "it was great to meet our neighbors and encourage them to support this wonderful community asset in their own backyard."



TMORA volunteers
Luda Lobenko (left) and Patty Connelly
at the Windom Fall Fest.



The Museum of Russian Art

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Letter from the President



C’Novom Godom! (Happy New Year!) I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Here’s to a few more cold months—perfect for contemplative indoor activities—like visiting TMORA!

In this issue of *The View* you’ll read about my two recent visits to Russia, one to St. Petersburg and the other to Moscow. The trips were tremendously successful as they provided me with many exciting ideas for future exhibitions and I was able to network with the directors and curators at several museums as well as prominent Russian cultural leaders.

As a Fellow of the Likhachev Foundation, I spent two weeks in St. Petersburg meeting with representatives from many of the cultural institutions in this “city of museums” as our curator and St. Petersburg native Masha Zavialova calls it. In Moscow, TMORA Director of Operations Lana Brooks and I attended the annual Assembly of the Russkiy Mir Foundation. Thanks in part to TMORA founder Raymond Johnson’s efforts to promote the museum, I was fortunate enough to receive an additional invitation (pictured right) from Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to attend a luncheon reception at the Kremlin. The President took time to recognize various international organizations—including TMORA—that work to promote Russian culture and art around the world.



More recently, I traveled to Washington D.C. on November 19th to participate in a panel discussion entitled “Improving Russian-American Understanding through Cultural Exchanges” at the prestigious Kennan Institute; the oldest program of the Woodrow Wilson Center and a home base for scholars of all things Russian. It was a wonderful opportunity to reunite with the other Fellows of the Likhachev Foundation program in St. Petersburg and share our experiences as the first US alumni of the “Residencies in Russia” program.

Closer to home, you’ll read in our Volunteer Spotlight feature about docent extraordinaire Carol Veldman Rudie. Carol’s dedication to TMORA cannot be overstated. She exemplifies the notion of going “above and beyond,” all in the service of TMORA’s mission.

As we begin a new year, I ask that you consider making an additional gift to TMORA. Our members are the heart and soul of our organization. Without the benefit of an endowment or corporate sponsorship, your support is that much more vital to us as we work to continue bringing you outstanding exhibitions of Russian art.

Enjoy the remaining days of our winter wonderland, and be sure to visit both of the upcoming exhibitions described in this issue.



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Judi Dutcher Visits Russia

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Like a true resident of this beautiful northern city of canals, Judi stayed in a small communal apartment rather than a hotel. She established many valuable contacts with representatives from Russian museums and members of St. Petersburg’s cultural community through a shared devotion to Russian art.

Because of her success as an ambassador for TMORA in St. Petersburg, Judi was invited to participate in the 2nd Annual Assembly of the Russkiy Mir Foundation in Moscow. Established in June 2007, its mission states, “The Russkiy Mir Foundation promotes Russian culture by sponsoring cultural programs and supporting living examples of Russian arts and culture around the world.”

President Dutcher, along with TMORA Director of Operations Lana Gendlin Brooks, participated in presentations and a round

Guests from Yaroslavl Welcomed



Left to right: Lana Gendlin Brooks, Director of Operations; Larisa Sorokina, Father Evgenii Grushevskii, Rector at St. Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church; Alla Khatyukhina, Judi Dutcher, Director; Masha Zavialova, Curator.

The exhibition “*Transcendent Art: Icons from Yaroslavl, Russia*” opened with a members-only reception on September 27, 2008. Almost 400 people came to celebrate the successful collaboration between TMORA and the Yaroslavl Art Museum in presenting the world-class icons of Yaroslavl to the American public for the very first time.

The evening’s honored guests were the Director of the Yaroslavl Art Museum, Alla Khatyukhina, and her supervisor Larisa Sorokina, the Head of the Department of Culture of Yaroslavl’s regional government. Both officials were instrumental in bringing this extraordinary project to fruition by negotiating with the Russian Ministry of Culutre for permission to loan these



Judi and Director of Operations Lana Gendlin Brooks in Moscow’s Red Square.

table discussion concerning “Russian Culture in a Global Context” on the 3rd and 4th of November at Moscow State University. While in Moscow, Judi was invited to the Kremlin to have lunch with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev as well as many notable Russian scholars and church leaders.

Following these trips, Judi spoke at the Kennan Institute in Washington D.C. on November 19th regarding improving Russian-American understanding through cultural exchanges.

Judi’s travels should help TMORA forge and strengthen relationships with key academicians and cultural leaders in Russia and across the United States.

treasured icons. Alla and Larisa arrived in Minneapolis to attend the opening reception and spend a few days touring our lovely city. It was their first visit to the United States.

Greeting the guests at the podium, TMORA’s director and president Judi Dutcher expressed her gratitude to TMORA’s staff and design team, as well as the individuals from Yaroslavl, for putting so much hard work into this international endeavor. The results confirmed the museum’s mission to bring outstanding works of Russian art to the public. The officials from Yaroslavl were very pleased with the installation as well as the condition of the icons after their journey in sealed crates half way around the world by land and air.

In her speech, Alla Khatyukhina said that it was a revelatory experience to see the icons from her museum exhibited in a new setting. She discussed how TMORA’s unique new installation brings out the nuances of iconography that may be invisible on the walls of her home institution.

Following Alla’s remarks, Larisa Sorokina said that regardless of the distance and cultural differences that divide Russia and the United States, “conservators, curators and everyone working in art museums would always find common ground.” Love for the art these professionals are entrusted to preserve, and a desire to educate the public, is the universal language spoken among them, from Russia all the way to Minnesota.

New Trustees

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marketing and advertising, and has worked at firms in New York and Minneapolis. An accomplished triathlete, she has competed in two Ironman competitions. Gayle lives in the Minneapolis area with husband Tim and their three sons.

Helen Hustad ~ Helen has served on numerous boards, including 13 years as a member of the Board of Regents at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. By her own count, Helen has visited Russia 22 times as a group leader and tour operator for cultural and religious exchange missions. Helen lives in Washington state with her husband, Reverend Jack Hustad.

Dr. C. Ben Wright ~ Dr. Wright (“Ben”) is President of Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis, an institution he has served in various roles for over 23 years. He is a published scholar of Cold War diplomacy and previously served on the board of Connect/US-Russia, a local non-profit agency. Dr. Wright earned his doctorate in American History, with a focus on the history of American foreign relations. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife Donna and has two adult daughters.

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our Board.

Volunteer Spotlight: Carol Veldman Rudie



Though many TMORA volunteers deserve special recognition, Carol Veldman Rudie’s contributions truly set her apart. As lead docent, Carol has devoted more time and energy to researching exhibitions, writing and conducting tours, as well as training fellow docents, than any other TMORA volunteer since the museum moved to its present location.

Carol credits her immediate and extended family, Dutch immigrants based near Albert Lea, with instilling sensitivity to and interest in the arts. Like a dedicated handful of other TMORA volunteers, Carol and her husband Dean live in the neighborhood. They followed the renovation of the old church on the corner closely, and first visited the museum shortly after it opened in May, 2005. It wasn’t long before Carol felt she’d discovered something special. “Within a half hour, I was at the desk requesting information about volunteering,” she said.

The frequent rotation of new exhibition materials presents TMORA’s docents with a unique challenge. With each new exhibition they often start from scratch to research the content and background material, as was the case with the recent exhibition *Transcendent Art: Icons from Yaroslavl, Russia*. Carol’s leadership of the docent-training program is therefore especially valuable. For example, Carol normally conducts the first week of tours for a new exhibition herself because as she pointed out, “my desire is always to give the docents the best opportunity to give their first tour with confidence—and those opening tours can be difficult because we are often seeing the art for the first time.”

An additional challenge Carol addresses is the need to tailor each tour to the particular makeup of her audience. She wouldn’t conduct the same tour for a group of college students as she would for elementary-aged children, or a group of artists visiting from Rochester (one of her favorites). She often focuses on different pieces from tour to tour, depending on the interests and backgrounds of the group.

Asked about her favorite TMORA exhibition for which to lead tour groups, Carol chose *Soviet Dis-Union* from the summer of 2006, which juxtaposed Socialist Realist with Nonconformist Soviet art. “It was beautifully laid out, wonderful to share with tour members, and comprehensive in covering the [Soviet] art scene,” said Carol.

Though Carol’s contributions are mostly exhibition related, she’s not above helping in the kitchen before a private event or traveling offsite to make a presentation at a county library or for a Minneapolis community education program.

Carol’s dedication to educating and informing TMORA’s visitors makes the museum an even richer place to visit. Along with the entire docent team, she is an invaluable resource at TMORA.