2020: YEAR IN REVIEW
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) entered 2020 with a sense of optimism, based on the momentum provided by strong attendance and enthusiastic public participation in TMORA’s programs during 2019 that continued into the new year. That optimism was dashed with the sudden advent of Covid-19 and, like most institutions, TMORA closed in late March, by mandate of the state.

During that period of uncertainty, work took place to establish a financial base that would allow the Museum to reopen when the time came. This was crucial, as earned revenue evaporated with the closure and had to be replaced. Fortunately, TMORA’s members and supporters demonstrated their commitment to the organization by making generous donations during the spring of 2020. These gifts were complemented by PPP funds and an EIDL loan, both from the federal government.

With these funds in-hand, TMORA reopened with its full 7-day schedule on June 29, shortly after the state closure order was lifted. Covid-19 protocols including masks, social distancing, capacity limitations, hand sanitizers, and Plexiglas shields were put in place for safety, as were special morning hours twice a week for seniors and those who were immunocompromised. Visitors returned immediately, but at less than 50% of the comparable period in 2019.

Those who did visit were treated to the magnificent exhibition Leaders and the Masses: Mega Paintings from Soviet Ukraine, which had been partially installed before the Museum closed. This marked the first exhibition of selected works from the 111 paintings of Jurii Manilchuk and Rose Brady Collection that were given to TMORA at the end of 2019 and start of 2020.

Since on-site programs were not possible, the Museum entered into the world of virtual programming, along with other arts institutions. On August 24, the first virtual offering featured Jonathan Slaght introducing his new book Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World’s Largest Owl, which was a rousing success with 424 participants. Slaght recounted his fieldwork adventures in the Primorye region of Russia, and Owls of the Eastern Ice went on to become the most honored natural history book of the year.

Numerous exhibition tours, presented by Curator Maria Zavialova, a discussion by William Brumfield of his book Journeys through the Russian Empire, a live tour of the studio of Elena Cubanova and Ivan Govorkov in St. Petersburg, filled out the virtual program schedule for 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic spiked again in November, and late that month the Museum closed for the remainder of the year, under another state mandate.

One bright spot at that time was the TMORA Shop, which had established an online presence at the end of October. As a result, local shoppers, as well as those from around the country, were able to make their holiday purchases, despite the Museum being closed.

While 2020 was a tumultuous year in many ways, it was anchored by the steadfast staff, who returned from furlough in June to reopen the Museum, and by the Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee, which met frequently during the year to assure that TMORA would survive and flourish, despite the circumstances.

I give all of them, and TMORA’s members, my heartfelt thanks for their dedication during this most trying time.

Mark J. Meister
Executive Director & President
2020 KEY METRICS

On-site attendance – 11,462

Virtual event attendance - 1,863

Outreach event attendance - 504

Year-end Memberships – 1,675
2020 EXHIBITIONS

Soviet Posters from TMORA Collection
September 14, 2019 - February 23, 2020

Mystical Imprints: Marc Chagall, Ben-Zion, and Ben Shahn
September 14, 2019 - February 22, 2020

After the Explosion: Documenting Chernobyl
September 14, 2019 - February 23, 2020

Christmas with the Tsars
November 16, 2019 - January 26, 2020

Vladimir Dikarev: Poetic Surrealism
February 8 - March 16, 2020

A Parliament of Owls: Children's Art from Russia
March 7 - October 18, 2020

Leaders and the Masses: Mega Paintings from Soviet Ukraine
June 29, 2020 - February 7, 2021

Masquerade for New Year
November 9, 2020 - January 31, 2021
2020 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

January 4-5: MN Orchestra Principal Cellist Anthony Ross and TMORA Curator of Classical Music Denis Evstuhin performed two consecutive evenings of Russian classical masterpieces to sold-out audiences.

January 24: Katherine Goertz, curator of the exhibition Mystical Imprints: Marc Chagall, Ben-Zion, and Ben Shahn, gave a lecture on the influential American Jewish art scene of the first half of the 20th century.


February 8-29: TMORA's folk performance group Nitka traveled throughout central Minnesota, performing and teaching four different educational programs focused on song, dance, and storytelling from the Russian tradition.

February 9: The Museum celebrated the opening of Vladimir Dikarev: Poetic Surrealism.

February 23: Minnesota Orchestra musicians Natsuki Kumagai, Ben Odhner, Kenneth Freed, and Anthony Ross performed a midday concert in the main gallery featuring works by Borodin, Prokoviev, and Shostakovich.

March 7: The Museum celebrated the opening of A Parliament of Owls: Children's Art from Russia, and launched its Russian Language Course program.

March 8: International Women’s Day was commemorated in the galleries with bouquets of mimosas and TMORA’s folk performance group Nitka.

August 4: Following a three month closure (due to the pandemic), TMORA’s first virtual program premiered to an audience of 424 viewers. Award-winning author Jonathan Slaght presented his book, Owls of the Eastern Ice: The Quest to Find and Save the World’s Largest Owl.

September 10: Award-winning filmmaker Gabe Polsky and professional sports marketer Stephen Warshaw discussed their documentary Red Penguins in a riveting virtual panel discussion. The event was presented in partnership with the Russian-American Business & Culture Council, Global Minnesota, Minnesota Committee on Foreign Relations, Minnesota Trade Office, and Zerkalo/Russian Media.

September 29: The Museum premiered the successful virtual series, Virtual Tour with the Curator, featuring Curator Masha Zavialova and Director of Public Programs Michelle Massey.

October 21: Author William Brumfield led a virtual discussion with incredible images from his book Journeys Through the Russian Empire with Curator Masha Zavialova.

November 10: TMORA partnered with the Russian-American Business & Culture Council, Minnesota Committee on Foreign Relations, Global Minnesota, and Zerkalo/Russian Media in presenting the virtual discussion The US Election's Impact on Russian Relations.

December 16: Russian artists Elena Cubanova and Ivan Govorkov led viewers through a virtual tour of their artist studio in St. Petersburg, Russia. The program was moderated by Natalia Kolodzei (Kolodzei Foundation) and Curator Masha Zavialova.
Joshua Yaffa, correspondent for The New Yorker in Moscow, presented his book *Between Two Fires: Truth, Ambition, and Compromise in Putin's Russia*.

2. Anthony Ross, Principal Cellist, Minnesota Orchestra, in concert with Denis Evstuhin, TMORA Curator of Classical Music Programs.

3. Curator Masha Zavialova speaks to a group about the Chernobyl disaster in conjunction with her curation of the exhibition *After the Explosion: Documenting Chernobyl*.

4. A socially distanced docent training in the main gallery.

5. Virtual Tour with the Curator, Masha Zavialova.

6. Russian artists Elena Gubanova and Ivan Govorkov during a virtual tour of their studio in St. Petersburg, Russia.

7. Russian artist, Ivan Govorkov.


9. Natalia Kolodzei, Kolodzei Foundation, moderating a virtual studio tour in Russia.

10. Author William Brumfield presenting his book *Journeys through the Russian Empire*.

11. A violinist plays a solo for a photography session in the gallery.

12. Curator Masha Zavialova and Director of Public Programs Michelle Massey speak to a virtual audience during their virtual tour series.
Net Profit – $30,066

While navigating two lengthy pandemic closures, TMORA Shop launched its online store in October 2020, giving shoppers from all over the world the opportunity to support TMORA.
2020 DONORS

TMORA’s **Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS)** celebrates the mission of the Museum and honors those who contribute $1,000+ annually to support its growth and success. We are deeply grateful to the following RACS members:

**$25,000+**
Anonymous
Russell Cowles
Gwenn and Eivind Djupedal
Pamela Safar
Joan Smith

**$10,000 - $24,999**
Douglas and Julie Baker
Kathy Bracken
Elizabeth Petrangelo and Mike Lundeby
Warren and Mary Lynn Staley

**$5,000 - $9,999**
Reggie Boyle
Rose Brady
Peter Driscoll and Daria Wilhelm
Deanna Phillips
Raymond and Susan Johnson
William and Martha McLaughlin
David Washburn and Meg Anderson
R.D. Zimmerman

**$2,500 - $4,999**
Ronald L. and Janet Christenson
Mary Crosby Dolan
Joan Duddingston
Ludmila Borisnova Eklund, M.D. and Dr. John Eklund
Elke Geacintov
Steven and Shannon Heim
Christine Podas-Larson and Kent Larson
Alice Mortenson
Chuck Ritchie
Vicki Terras

**Continued**
2020 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society continued:

$1,000 - $2,499
David and Mary Beth Amundson
Kim and James Balaschak
Natalia Berglund
Karen and Jeffrey Brooks
Americo and Jan Del Calzo
John and Marcia Diracles
Gretchen and Joseph Docter
E. Duane Engstrom
Bruce Goodman
Kathy Gremillion
Michael and Sandra Harrison
Robyn Hollingshead
Helen and Rev. Jack F. Hustad
Sean Kalafut
Pamela and Robert Herrick
Deborah McKnight and James Alt
Mark Meister and Carla Steiger
Marianne Merriman
Eric Michael and Josh Hillger
Lucy Crosby Mitchell
Moores Insurance Management, Inc.
Robert and Sandy Morris
Firou Mostashari
Laurie Petronis
Ken and Nina Rothchild
Lawrence and Susan Sheets
Julie Snow
Theofanis Stavrou
Josephine Trubek
C. Ben and Donna Wright
2020 DONORS

Foundation and Grant Support

$25,000+
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
Stone Uncle Trust
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota State Arts Board
Robert J. Brokop Revocable Trust

$10,000 - 24,999
Target Foundation

$5,000 - 9,999
Twin Cities Public Television
Minnesota Humanities Center
2020 DONORS

Contributions

$500 - $999
Rolf Anderson
Mary Kay Arthur
Mary Bang
Luigi Bernardi
Hugh and Joyce Edmondson
Catherine and Edward Fischer
John and Ruth Huss
Bruce and Irina Linder
Katharine Mauer
Mary Ann McNeil and David Higgins
John Siffert and Martha Norris
Dorothy Horns and James Richardson
Lisa and Jason Sem
Ken Styrlund
Catherine Taylor

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

Information about how to support TMORA through your donor-advised fund, with gifts of stock, an IRA distribution, or legacy gift planning can be found at www.tmora.org/giving or by contacting the Museum directly at 612-821-9045. You may also make a gift, renew your membership, and buy tickets for upcoming events.
2020 VOLUNTEERS

Throughout TMORA, from the front desk and TMORA Shop, and in the galleries between, you will find extraordinary volunteers doing wonderful things. We greatly appreciate the years of dedicated service that our renowned docents and volunteers give to the Museum.

Jane Aby
Ruth Ann Benson
Linda Brown
Jeanette Cureton
Americo Del Calzo
Denise Dian
Marjorie Eisenach
Beverly Everson
Palmira Gall
Inna Geller
Katherine Goertz
Marie Grubisich
Alan Heider
Lisa Heinrich
Rochelle Hoffman
Orvis Holm
Joyce Howes
Fran Howley
Mary Johnson
Sean Kalafut
Sandy Knilans
Natalia Krylova
Melba Lewis
Irina Linder
Luda Lobenko
Angela Lundberg
Deborah McKnight
Ann Melrose
Heather Mortensen
Gian-Paulo Paz
Joni Peterson
Tatiana Przytula
Kathy Quick
Ginny Redgrave
Carrie Ruppert
Brianna St. Amour
Steve Schroer
Wendi Sott
Pat Spaulding
Margo Squire
Carol Veldman
Rudie
2020 STAFF

Mark J. Meister, Executive Director and President
  Theresa Nelson, Membership and Development Associate, Weekend Manager
  Linda Thiel, Accountant
Maria Zavialova, Ph.D., Chief Curator, Head of Exhibitions and Collections
  Michael Waltz, Collections Associate
  Gini Tyson, Installation Specialist
Michelle Massey, Director of Public Programs
  Carol Rudie, Outreach Education Coordinator
  Elena Epshteyn, Russian Language Instructor
  Dennis Evstuhin, Curator of Classical Music
  Kelly Bloedorn, Front Desk Assistant
Mary Berg, Museum Shop Manager and Buyer
  Sarah Rosenthal, Museum Shop Associate
  Mark Biers, Facilities Manager

2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christine Podas-Larson, Chair
Liz Petrangelo, Vice Chair
Steven Heim, Treasurer
Reggie Boyle, Secretary
Natalia Berglund
Kathy Bracken
Mark Downey
Chuck Ritchie
Julie Snow
Theofanis Stavrou
David Washburn
C. Ben Wright, Ph.D.
R.D. Zimmerman
The Museum of Russian Art’s financial statements, excerpted for this presentation, are audited by Carpenter, Evert & Associates, Certified Public Accountants. These audited financial statements may be viewed upon request at The Museum of Russian Art’s Administration Office, 5500 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55419.
## 2020 Financial Summary

### 2020 Revenue (Unrestricted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions (unrestricted)</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>$1,064,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Fees</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>$75,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Income</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>$65,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Income</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>$8,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events Income (net)</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>$20,877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Shop Net Sales</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$30,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>$13,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$207,597</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Support and Revenue** $1,485,233

### 2020 Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>$674,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>$102,696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>$147,116</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expense Before Depreciation** $923,998

**Depreciation** $198,465

**Total Expense** $1,122,463

**Change in Net Assets** $362,770

**Net Assets - Beginning of Year** $3,172,853
**Net Assets - End of Year** $3,535,623

---

The Museum of Russian Art's financial statements, excerpted for this presentation, are audited by Carpenter, Evert & Associates, Certified Public Accountants. These audited financial statements may be viewed upon request at The Museum of Russian Art's Administration Office, 5500 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55419.
2020 FUNDERS

Robert J. Brokop Revocable Trust

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

TWIN CITIES PBS

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINNESOTA State Arts Board

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Minnesota Humanities Center

foundation
2020 SPONSORS

Schmitt Music

MOORES Insurance Management Inc.