

# THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART

ANNUAL  
REPORT

2020





# 2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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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 the Jurii Maniichuk 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*, and a live tour of the studio of Elena Gubanova 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

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**On-site attendance – 11,462**

**Virtual event attendance - 1,863**

**Outreach event attendance - 504**

**Year-end Memberships – 1,675**





# 2020 EXHIBITIONS

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## **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**

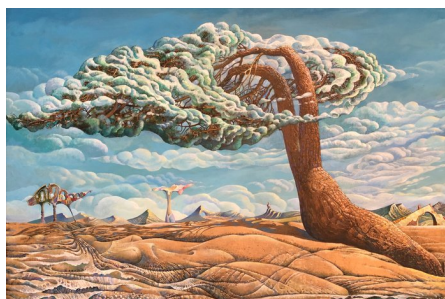
March 7 - October 18, 2020

## **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

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**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.

**January 29:** Joshua Yaffa, correspondent for *The New Yorker* in Moscow, presented his book *Between Two Fires: Truth, Ambition, and Compromise in Putin's Russia*.

**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, Prokofiev, 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.

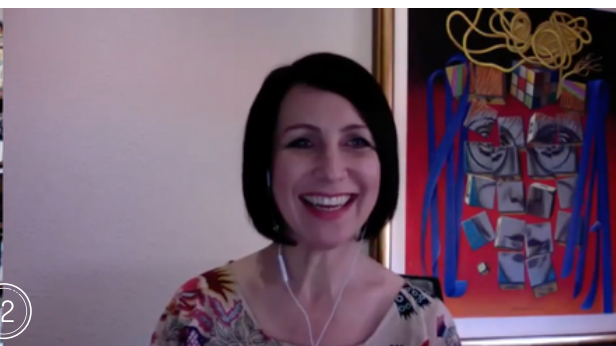
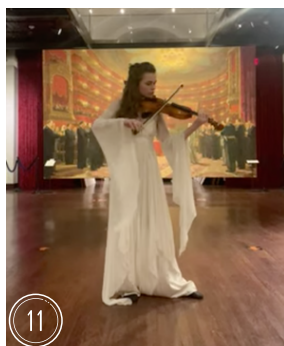
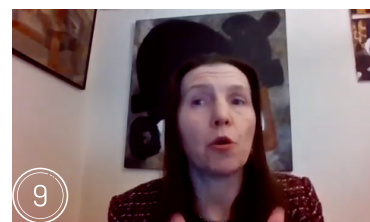
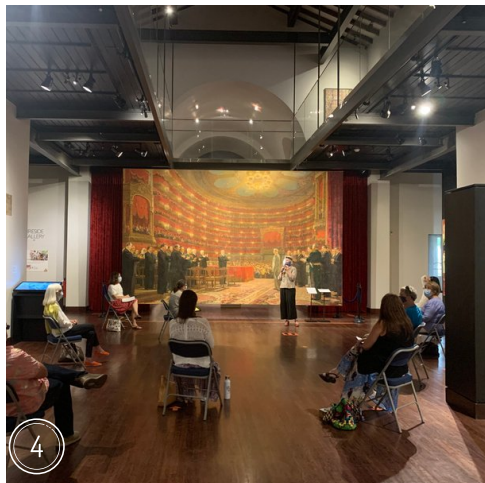
**October 21:** Author William Brumfield led a virtual discussion with incredible images from his book *Journeys Through the Russian Empire* with Curator Masha Zavialova.

**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 Gubanova 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.



# 2020 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



1. 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 | 8. Author Jonathan Slaght reads a passage from his book *Owls of the Eastern Ice: A Quest to Find and Save the World's Largest Owl* during a virtual book discussion. | 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.



# 2020 TMORA SHOP | SHOPTMORA.ORG

## 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

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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 Lundebly  
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





# 2020 DONORS

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*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  
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Laurie Petronis  
Ken and Nina Rothchild  
Lawrence and Susan Sheets  
Julie Snow  
Theofanis Stavrou  
Josephine Trubek  
C. Ben and Donna Wright



# The Museum of Russian Art



# 2020 DONORS

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## 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

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## 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**

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*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](http://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

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*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  
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Rochelle Hoffman

Orvis Holm  
Joyce Howes  
Fran Howley  
Mary Johnson  
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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

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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

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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

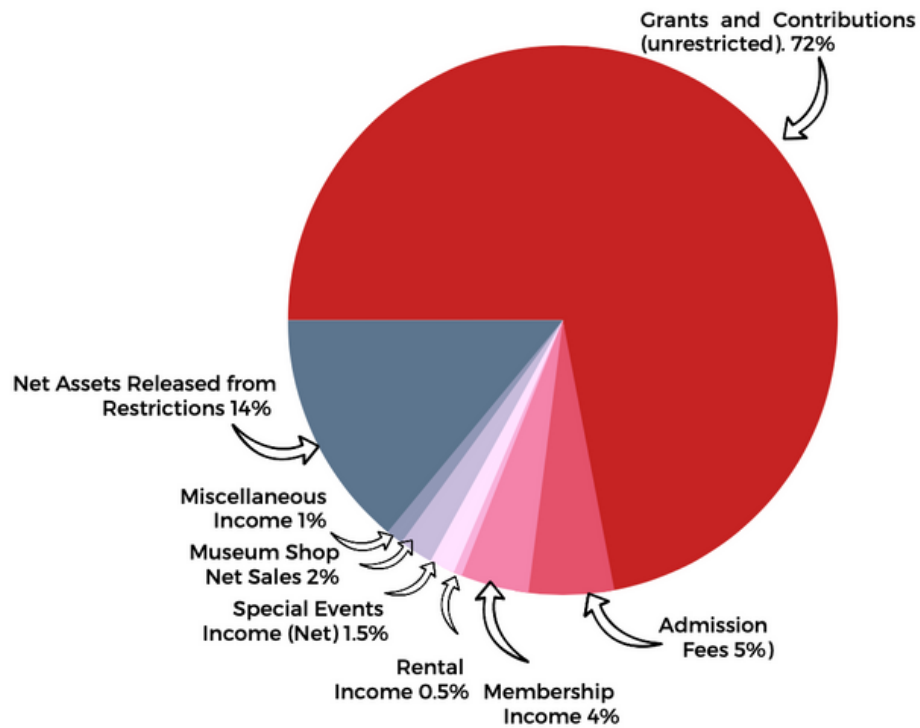
David Washburn

C. Ben Wright, Ph.D.

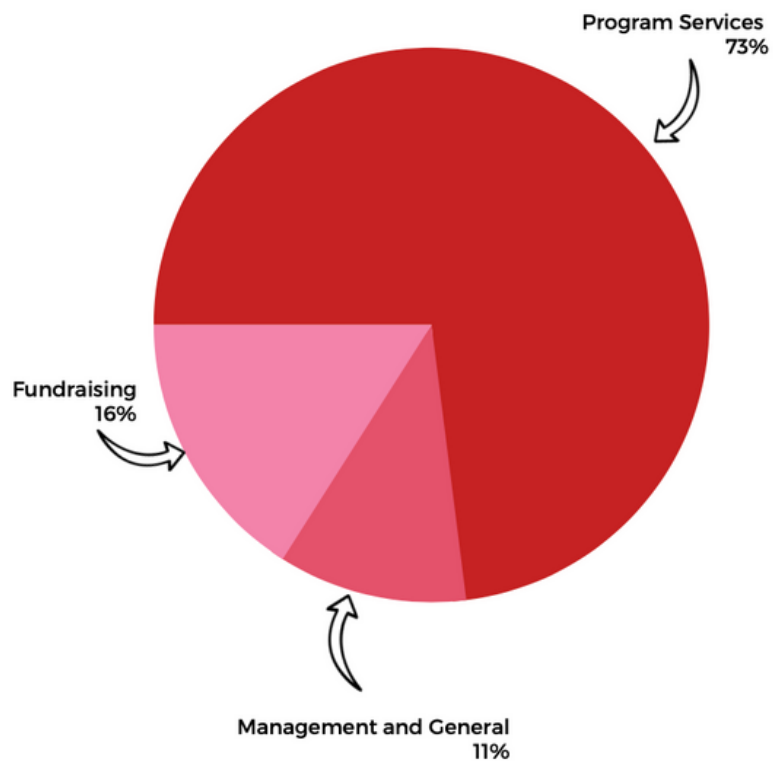
R.D. Zimmerman

# 2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## 2020 REVENUE



## 2020 EXPENSE



*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)

Grants and Contributions (unrestricted): 72%	\$1,064,040
Admission Fees: 5%	\$75,687
Membership Income: 4%	\$65,624
Rental Income: 0.5%	\$8,111
Special Events Income (net): 1.5%	\$20,877
Museum Shop Net Sales: 2%	\$30,066
Miscellaneous Income: 1%	\$13,231
Net Assets Released from Restrictions: 14%	\$207,597
 Total Support and Revenue	 \$1,485,233

## 2020 Expense

Program Services: 73%	\$674,186
Management and General: 11%	\$102,696
Fundraising: 16%	<u>\$147,116</u>
 Total Expense Before Depreciation	 \$923,998
 Depreciation	 <u>\$198,465</u>
 Total Expense	 \$1,122,463
 Change in Net Assets	 \$362,770
 Net Assets - Beginning of Year	 <u>\$3,172,853</u>
Net Assets - End of Year	<u>\$3,535,623</u>

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## 2020 FUNDERS

### Robert J. Brokop Revocable Trust



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