THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART
2021 ANNUAL REPORT
Unlike 2020, when The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA) was closed for five months due to the state’s pandemic mandates, in 2021, TMORA operated on a normal schedule, beginning on January 11. Pandemic protocols remained in place to protect visitors and staff, and masks were required for most of the year.

Attendance began to increase as the year progressed and, in August, it was comparable to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. However, as soon as the Delta variant became dominant in the fall, attendance dropped, as did participation in our newly reinstituted events, such as Russian Art After Dark and exhibition openings. Our live concerts, however, which started again on July 24, followed by concerts in September and October, sold-out at the reduced seating capacity of 75. The reduced crowd size at the concerts allowed for reserved seating, arranged with social distancing in mind.

With live programs limited throughout most of the year, virtual programs continued with exhibition tours, artist talks, and book discussions. The online Russian language program, initiated at the start of the pandemic in 2020, gained momentum, with students from around the country being taught at several different levels by our three instructors. With the hiring of the Museum’s first Education Coordinator in December, through a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, programs for children, families, and adults will be forthcoming in 2022.

In was an extremely full year with fourteen exhibitions including the paintings of Geli Korzhev, the design innovations of Alexey Brodovitch, Russian ethnic dolls, lacquer miniatures, a selection of Belarusian painters, and the contemporary work of Ekaterina Khromin and Andréa Stanislav. Through funding from the Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul-based American Indian artist Marlena Myles created an exhibition focusing on her reflections of the interactions between the indigenous peoples of Alaska and the Russians who took control of that region during the Russian America period in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was her first one-person show and the first exhibition of the work of an American Indian artist at TMORA.

In the lower level gallery, the year began with the holiday exhibition *Masquerade for New Year* and ended with the *The Yolka: Russia’s New Year Tree*, both of which were primarily comprised of items from the Museum’s major collection of Soviet-era holiday items from our Balaschak Collection. 2021 marked the year that the lower-level space officially became the Museum’s Permanent Collection Gallery, dedicated to highlighting TMORA’s growing collection.

Despite the restrictions of the pandemic and its impact on the Museum’s attendance and programs, a significant financial milestone was achieved in 2021. With payments in January and April, TMORA retired its mortgage, which stood at $1.28 million. Our sincere thanks go out to the donors who made this achievement possible, as it assures the Museum’s future at its present location.

My thanks, as always, go out to the staff, Trustees, volunteers, and members who make everything we accomplish at TMORA possible.

Mark J. Meister
Executive Director & President
2021 KEY METRICS

On-site attendance - 19,558

Virtual event attendance - 1,961 (19 programs)

Outreach event attendance - 969 (23 programs)

Year-end Memberships - 1,600
2021 EXHIBITIONS

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

Dynamics of Russian Colonialism in Alaska: Marlena Myles
January 16 - March 14, 2021

Ekaterina Khromin: The Art of Synergism
February 20 - June 13, 2021

Paintings by Geli Korzhev: Soviet Idealist + Iconoclast
February 27 - June 13, 2021

Artel Dolls, Soviet Russia, 1920s
March 27 - August 8, 2021

Medieval Russian Sailboats
May 22 - June 6, 2021

Alexi Brodovitch: Designer of the Avant-Garde
June 23 - October 24, 2021

Belarusian Paintings: from Traditionalism to Contemporary Expression
June 26 - September 12, 2021

The Ancient Artel: Lacquer Miniatures from Palekh
June 23 - October 24, 2021

Samovars and Nesting Dolls: MSP Airpot
June 29, 2021 - June 21, 2022

E.O. Hoppé and the Ballets Russes
September 18 - November 14, 2021

Andréa Stanislav: Cosmist Reconstructions - Memories of Earth
October 30, 2021 - February 22, 2022

The Yolka: Russia's New Year Tree
November 13, 2021 - January 16, 2022
2021 EVENTS

*Denotes Virtual Program*

**January 14** - The Future of International Information: American and Russian Approaches*

**January 30** - Celebrating Chekhov*

**February 17** - The Black Russian: A Virtual Book Discussion with Author Vladimir Alexandrov*

**February 24** - Virtual Tour with Artist Marlena Myles*

**March 2** - Virtual Grand Opening - Three New Exhibitions Unveiled*

**April 6** - Visualizing Music: Modest Mussorgsky, Pictures at an Exhibition*

**April 14** - Virtual Tour with the Artist: Ekaterina Khromin*

**April 15** - Artistic and Cultural Exchanges Between Minnesota and Akademgorodok, Russia*

**April 21** - Virtual Tour with the Curator: Paintings by Geli Korzhev*

**May 5** - Virtual Tour with the Curator: Artel Dolls, Soviet Russia, 1920s*

**May 22** - Voices from Russia: Celebrating all things Volga-German*

**May 24** - Virtual Program with the Author: Beyond by Stephen Walker - Motherland Greets a Hero: The ThrillingFeat of Yuri Gagarin*

**June 3** - Virtual Tour with the Curator: Medieval Russian Sailboats

**June 6** - The Importance of Central Asia in World Affairs*

**June 25** - Virtual Opening with the Curator - Alexey Brodovitch: Designer of the Avant-Garde, Belarusian Paintings: from Traditionalism to Contemporary Expression*

**June 25** - Opening Reception for Russian Arts & Culture Society

**July 24** - Denis Evstuhin in Concert

**August 6** - Russian Art After Dark

**September 11** - White Nights Annual Fundraising Dinner

**September 17** - Opening Reception - E.O. Hoppé and the Ballets Russes

**September 18** - Smithsonian Museum Day

**September 19** - Julian Gargiulo and Nathan Meltzer in Concert

**September 23** - Russian Art After Dark

**October 2** - Encore Performance: Denis Evstuhin in Concert

**October 12** - US Russian Museums Art Loan Freeze: Where Do We Go From Here?*

**October 21** - Ballet Photography: Alexei Brodovitch and E.O. Hoppé - Dr. Curt Lund*

**October 30** - Opening Reception - Andrea Stanislav: Cosmist Reconstructions - Memories of Earth

**November 11** - Celebrating Dostoevsky*

**November 13** - Afternoon Tea at TMORA

**November 14** - Opening Reception - The Yolka: Russia’s New Year Tree

**November 29** - The Current Russia-Ukraine Relationship*

**December 8** - TMORA Members Shopping Night

**December 10** - Virtual Tour with the Artist: Andrée Stanislav*
2021 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Denis Evstuhin, TMORA’s Curator of Classical Music, in Concert - 7.24.21

Russian Art After Dark - 8.06.21

Opening Reception with artist Andréa Stanislav - 10.30.21

White Nights Annual Fundraising Dinner - 9.11.21

Afternoon Tea at TMORA - 11.13.21

Julian Gargiulo & Nathan Meltzer in Concert - 9.19.21
2021 Net Profit – $151,126
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
Elizabeth Petrangelo and Mike Lundeby

$10,000-$24,999
Douglas and Julie Baker
Luigi Bernardi
Kathleen Blatz and Greg Page
Kathy Bracken
Reggie Boyle
Americo and Jan Del Calzo
Gwenn and Eivind Djupedal
Ludmila Borisnova Eklund M.D. and Dr. John Eklund
Sean Kalafut
David Washburn and Meg Anderson
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$5,000-$9,999
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Per Hong
William and Matha McLaughlin
Betty MacMillan
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$2,500-$4,999
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Ronald L. and Janet A. Christenson
Mary Crosby Dolan
Elke Geacintov

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2021 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) continued

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Lisa and John Griffin
Robyn Hollingshead
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2021 DONORS

Russian Arts and Culture Society (RACS) continued

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2021 DONORS

Foundation and Grant Support

$25,000+
Minnesota State Arts Board
Robert J. Brokop Revocable Trust
Stone Uncle Trust

$10,000-$24,999
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Humanities Center
NextStage

$5,000-$9,999
Target Foundation
TPT, Twin Cities Public Television

Artworks from Dynamics of Russian Colonialism in Alaska: Marlena Myles
2021 DONORS

Contributions

$500-$999
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Mary Bang
Thomas and Jill Barland
Pamela and Robert Berkowitz
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G. Rolf and Patricia Svendsen
Catherine Taylor

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.
2021 STAFF
Mark J. Meister, Executive Director and President
Theresa Nelson, Membership and Development Associate, Weekend Manager
Linda Thiel, Financial & Administrative Officer
Maria Zavialova, Ph.D., Chief Curator, Head of Exhibitions and Collections
Michael Waltz, Collections Management & Installation Technician
Gini Tyson, Installation Specialist
Michelle Massey, Director of Public Programs
Bridget Gallagher, Education Coordinator
Carol Rudie, Outreach Education Coordinator
Elena Epshteyn, Russian Language Instructor
Inna Ponomorenko, Russian Language Instructor
Natalia Krylova, Russian Language Instructor
Dennis Evstuhin, Curator of Classical Music
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Mary Berg, Museum Shop Director of Retail
Irina Linder, Museum Shop Assistant
Sarah Rosenthal, Museum Shop Associate
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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.
# 2021 Financial Summary

## 2021 Revenue (Unrestricted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions (unrestricted)</td>
<td>$779,476</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Fees</td>
<td>$123,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Income</td>
<td>$96,751</td>
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<td>Educational Programming</td>
<td>$28,372</td>
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<td>Special Events Income (net)</td>
<td>$334,691</td>
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<td>Museum Shop Net Sales</td>
<td>$151,126</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>$4,053</td>
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<td>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</td>
<td>$735,199</td>
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**Total Support and Revenue** $2,252,690

## 2021 Expense

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$817,795</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$90,346</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$176,393</td>
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**Total Expense Before Depreciation** $1,084,534

**Depreciation** $209,729

**Total Expense** $1,294,263

**Change in Net Assets** $958,427

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

**Net Assets - End of Year** $4,494,050

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The exhibitions and programs at The Museum of Russian Art are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support and Creative Support for Organization grants, thanks to the a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund, as well as a Minnesota State Arts Board CARES Act grant.

Funding has been provided to The Museum of Russian Art by the Minnesota Humanities Center through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. NEH is committed to Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP).* *Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
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