



THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

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THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS PRESENTS

EMIL HOPPÉ: PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE BALLETS RUSSES

November 14, 2019 - March 8, 2020



CLINTON, MA – The Museum of Russian Icons will present *Emil Hoppé: Photographs from the Ballets Russes*, November 14, 2019 through March 8, 2020. The exhibition pays homage to the genius of two men: famed Russian impresario **Sergei Diaghilev** who, more than a century ago, founded the Ballets Russes; and renowned photographer **Emil Otto Hoppé**, who, between 1911 and 1921, photographed the champions of that illustrious company. With both studio portraits and ballet sequences, this visual chronicle presents not only the leading stars of the Ballets Russes such as Vaslav Nijinsky, Adolph Bolm, Michel and Vera Fokine and

Tamara Karsavina, but also celebrities whose connection with Diaghilev was tangential rather than axial – such as Mathilde Kschessinska, Anna Pavlova, and Hubert Stowitts.



In the 1920s and 30s **Emil Otto Hoppé** (British, German born, 1878–1972) was one of the most sought-after photographers in the world. Hoppé’s studio in London’s South Kensington was a magnet for the rich and famous, and for years he actively led the global art scene on both sides of the Atlantic, making over thirty photographically-illustrated books, and establishing himself as a pioneering figure in photographic art.

The pure sensuality of Hoppé’s riveting Ballets Russes portraits reveals the essence of the dancers who, in performing their innovative choreography in costumes by Léon Bakst, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Nicholas Roerich, Alexandre Benois, and fashion designer Coco Chanel, among others, took their audiences by storm with performances that shocked the senses and seduced the world into the modern era.

Comprised of 73 platinum prints and curated by USC Professor John Bowl and independent curator/photo historian/artist Graham Howe, was organized in collaboration with the E.O. Hoppé Estate Collection and is circulated by Curatorial Assistance Traveling Exhibitions, Pasadena, California. The exhibition is accompanied by a publication, *One Hundred and One Photographs: Emil Otto Hoppé and the Ballets Russes* (St. Petersburg: Iskusstvo and Curatorial Assistance, 2018).

Image credits:

Tamara Karsavina as Columbine in “Le Carnaval”, London, England, 1912. © E.O. Hoppé Estate Collection/ Curatorial Assistance Inc.

Hubert Stowitts in “Inca Dance” (detail), London England, 1920. © E.O. Hoppé Estate Collection/ Curatorial Assistance Inc.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The Museum of Russian Icons inspires the appreciation and study of Russian culture by collecting and exhibiting icons and related objects; igniting the interest of national and international audiences; and offering interactive educational programs. The Museum serves as a leading center for research and scholarship through the Center for Icon Studies and other institutional collaborations. It is the only museum in the US dedicated to Russian icons, and it is the largest collection of icons outside of Russia.

Museum hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11am to 4pm; Saturday and Sunday, 11am to 5pm. First Sunday of the month: free admission! Closed Mondays.

Admission: Adults \$10, seniors (59+) \$7, Students \$5, Children (3-7) \$5, Children under 3 Free.

For more information, please visit museumofrussianicons.org. Follow the Museum of Russian Icons on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).