The exhibition contains six sections, each explore a different theme:

1) Introduction
The introduction information about the meaning of icons and how they are traditionally made. Additional text about symbols in icons is included throughout the exhibition.

2) Feasts
This section includes icons depicting significant holy days in the Russian Orthodox liturgical calendar.

3) Christ
The two primary types of icons of Christ are included in this section: Christ Pantocrator, and “Image Not Made by Hands.”

4) Mother of God
This section explores three types of Mother of God icons: Sign, Hodigitria (“She who shows the way”), and Tenderness.

5) Saints
Icons of both well-known and lesser-known saints are included in this section. Format of the icons vary, and include icons of single saints, saints with scenes of their lives, and sculptural objects.

6) Metal Icons & Crosses
Enameled bronze icons, pendant icons, and crosses complement the icons on wood that make up the majority of the collection.

For the past two thousand years, the icon has remained a constant representation of the eternal and divine. In Russian Orthodox Christianity, an icon is a sacred image that serves as a “window” between the human realm and the heavenly realm. Unlike Western forms of Christian art with which audiences may be familiar, icons are not primarily created for aesthetic reasons. Instead, they are first considered functional objects in Russian Orthodox Christianity, tools for prayer and the accurate dissemination of sacred knowledge. The believer venerates the icon as a way to convey prayers to the person depicted in the icon or to contemplate the biblical scene shown.

For icons to function as vehicles for prayer, they must conform to established prototypes established by the church. Symbols are a kind of language when used in a prescribed way. Therefore, icons remain remarkably constant throughout the centuries and are still painted today using traditional materials and techniques. While icons are not intended by the Orthodox Church to be original works of art, they are indeed beautiful objects. Rich mineral pigments and gleaming gold leaf radiate from even the humblest icon. Silver jeweled covers, or oklads, lend opulence to icons commissioned by wealthy patrons. These objects are sacred to Orthodox believers, but their stories and roles throughout Russian history make them fascinating to all audiences.

This traveling exhibition features more than 60 icons and artifacts from our prestigious collection that date from the 8th Century Byzantine Empire through the history of Russian Iconography, to the present. It includes interpretive material (digitized), educational materials (docent guides and ideas for in gallery-activities, all digitized), and high-resolution images of a selection of objects.
Available for 8-week bookings.

**Objects:** more than 60 icons and related artifacts including metal crosses and icons.

**Text:** Extended wall panels and individual object labels, printed on durable material and in electronic format.

**Supplemental materials:** Docent/interpreter training packet, family guide, and sample press release.

**Space Requirements:** 100 linear feet, some items require cases (either floor or wall mounted)

**Security:** A facilities report and certificate of insurance are required from each venue. Objects loaned must be displayed in secured, environmentally safe cases in locations regularly patrolled by security personnel. Mounted figures or other objects that are difficult to case may be displayed in otherwise suitable areas, provided that adequate security measures are taken. During closed hours, security by guard or electronic devices is required.

**Fee:** $5,000 for an 8 week booking, not including shipping or insurance. The exhibition may be extended. Contact us for details.

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