



THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS
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MIGRATION + MEMORY

Jewish Artists of the Russian and Soviet Empires
from the Vladimir and Vera Torchilin Collection

On Exhibit October 12, 2017 – January 28, 2018



Anatoly Kaplan, *Evening Tea*, Tempera on Board, 1969.
Collection of Vladimir and Vera Torchilin, photo
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CLINTON, MA—The Museum of Russian Icons is pleased to announce their upcoming exhibition, *Migration & Memory: Jewish Artists of the Russian and Soviet Empires*. The exhibit will feature approximately 100 works drawn from the Vladimir and Vera Torchilin Collection that explore the creative responses as well as historical trajectories of Jewish artists born, trained, or active in the Russian as well as Soviet Empires in the twentieth century. It is organized by Boston's Ballets Russes Arts Initiative and presented by the Museum of Russian Icons. The exhibit is structured around the themes of migration and memory that are central

to the Jewish experience in this period. It is curated by Ballets Russes Arts Initiative's Executive Director, Anna Winestein.

The works in the exhibition were not all created within the territory of Imperial Russia or the Soviet Union, but they carry within them a complex legacy, of both opportunity and suffering, cooperation and hatred, inclusion and alienation. The opening of the show coincides closely with the centenary of the October Revolution of 1917, which transformed the landscape of choices and options for Russian Jewry, including artists, in many positive ways while also bringing enormous displacement and violence. Nearly all the items on display date from the 20th century, primarily from the period between the start of World War I in 1914 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Select highlights of the show include pieces by Alexandre Altmann, Boris Anisfeld, Eugene Berman, Sonia Delaunay, Moshe Kogan, Solomon Gershov, Anatoly Kaplan, El Lissitzky, Oscar Rabin, Savely Sorine, Moses and Raphael Soyer, Eduard Steinberg, Nikolai Suetin, Alexander Tyshler, Solomon Yudovin, and Osip Zadkine. In total, it will present the creations of nearly 50 different artists: paintings, drawings, prints, posters and illustrated books, as well as three-dimensional objects.

Vladimir and Vera Torchilin's collection started with Vladimir's parents who lived in Moscow and were friendly with several notable Soviet artists, including some who were Jewish. Vladimir began his collecting as a bibliophile, an interest that coincided with his love of writing poetry and prose—he is the author of numerous novels, volumes of short stories and essays. Vladimir and Vera Torchilin moved to the US in the early 1990's, and after the fall of the Soviet Union were successful in bringing out a large portion of their collection, to which they have continued to add voraciously. Their collection is primarily focused on Russian and Soviet artists—not all of Jewish heritage—but also includes works by Europeans and Americans. They also continue to collect rare books, mostly in Russian.

BIOGRAPHIES

Anna Winestein is an historian of art and theater, independent curator, and cultural entrepreneur. She is Executive Director and co-founder of the Ballets Russes Arts Initiative (www.ballets-russes.com), a Boston-area non-profit that follows in the tradition of Diaghilev's Ballets Russes by promoting international creative exchange in the fine and performing arts, especially with the post-Soviet region. She also consults collectors, dealers and museums, and previously served as Creative Director for the Hermitage Museum Foundation.

Exhibitions Ms. Winestein has curated include *The Golden Age of the Ballets Russes* for Sotheby's Galerie Charpentier in Paris, and *The Magical Reality of Alexandre Benois* at the Boston Public Library, for which she also wrote the catalogues. Co-editor and co-author of *The Ballets Russes and the Art of Design* (Random House, 2009), as well as *Loyalties and Solidarities in Russian Society, History and Culture* (University College London, 2013), Ms. Winestein has published in academic journals and contributed essays to numerous exhibition catalogues and joint volumes such *Dance and Fashion* (Yale Univ. Press, 2014) *Migration and Mobility in the Modern Age* (Indiana Univ. Press, 2017) and *Revolutions in Russian Painting* (Bonnenfanten Museum Maastricht 2013). Her research interests include Russian art 1850 to today, European modernism, 20th century dance and theater history, cultural exchange between Russia and Europe in late Imperial times, and the Russian emigration.

Ms. Winestein has been a Cultural Envoy for the US State Department and is a former Fulbright Scholar. She is finishing a doctorate in Modern History at Oxford University; her dissertation examines social and professional networks among Russian artists in Paris 1870-1917. Ms. Winestein is also an associate of the Davis Center at Harvard University and the Center for the Study of Europe at Boston University. She holds a master's in economics and separate undergraduate degrees in painting and art history.

Dr. Vladimir Torchilin is a leading biochemist, pharmacologist and specialist in nanomedicine, author of 450 scientific papers and holder of over 40 patents. He is currently University Distinguished Professor at Northeastern University and Director of its Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and Nanomedicine. Vera Torchilin worked in wealth management, finishing her career as a Second Vice President at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

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Ms. Winestein and Mr. and Mrs. Torchilin are available for interviews. Please contact [Mary Delaney](#), Marketing Director at the Museum of Russian Icons to coordinate a time. High-resolution images are also available by emailing [Mary Delaney](#).

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: Tue. - Fri., 11AM to 4PM, first Thurs of the month to 8PM, Saturday and Sunday 11AM to 5PM, closed Mondays. Admission: Adults \$10, seniors (59+) \$7, Students \$5, Children (3-7) \$5, Children under 3 Free. For more information please visit www.museumofrussianicons.org.

Музей Русских Икон вдохновляет местных и международных посетителей на изучение и преклонение перед русской культурой через коллекционирование и показ икон и связанных с ними произведений искусства, и через организацию интерактивных образовательных программ. Центр Изучения Икон и сотрудничество с другими организациями позволили Музею стать ведущим исследовательским центром в этой области.