



MUSEUM OF  
RUSSIAN  
ICONS

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Dr. Bettina Jungen



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Although we are approaching the dark days of the New England winter, spring is not far away. As we anticipate the turn of the seasons, here's a quick preview of changes happening at the Museum!

Our fifteenth anniversary exhibition *Icons for our Time: Orthodox Art from Around the World* will remain on view until April 2022, and guest curator Dr. Clemena Antonova will present a virtual roundtable discussion in February. We'll also hear from the exhibit's iconographers Aidan Hart (virtual lecture) and Christopher Gosey (workshop on the Ethiopian tradition).

We are excited about our upcoming collaborations with institutions near and far. Locally, we will be working with the Clinton Historical Society, Bigelow Public Library, and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, while international partners include the Byzantfest International Orthodox Film Festival based in Australia.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff we thank each of you who have donated to our annual appeal or who have participated the Museum's exhibits and programs in person or online. With optimism and hope, we welcome the year 2022 and beyond!

Kent Russell, Executive Director

*Detail: Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple, Luba Stefanova, 2021, Tempera on wood with glued fabric and chalk primer, Bulgaria*

## COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

In 2007 the Museum of Russian Icons received an icon of Saint Nicholas. Staff noted that the image only loosely resembled the saint, and the inscription did not appear to match. The style of the icon, particularly the orange border and silver leaf ground, indicates that this icon was made by one of Russia's itinerant iconographers from Khouli, a rural painting village located north of Moscow. During a routine assessment of our collection this year, the icon was properly identified as Saint Tikhon of Amathus, a much less commonly depicted saint. It is likely that the artist was not familiar with Saint Tikhon and so adapted the well-known iconography of Saint Nicholas to complete the commission. This discovery elevates the icon: rather than a poorly executed icon of Saint Nicholas it is a fascinating example of the Russian itinerant iconographer tradition.



*Saint Tikhon of Amathus, 1980, Russia, Egg tempera on wood*

## ON VIEW



*Lacquer box, The Tea Drinkers, 1986, Gift of John Graves*

*Samovar-shaped Tea Caddy, 2000s, Russia Paint on papier-mâché, lacquer*

## Tea is for Tradition

February 3 - October 2, 2022

Cultivated in the southern parts of the Russian Empire, tea is emblematic of Russian culture, the samovar being the ubiquitous and stately anchor in any Russian home. The ceremony surrounding tea in Russia equals that of Japan in its cultural significance.

But how did this ancient beverage come to hold such a place of prominence in Russia? This mini-exhibition in the Museum's entrance gallery explores the objects associated with tea drinking and the permeation of tea culture in art, craft, and literature.

## ICONS FOR OUR TIME

Orthodox Art from Around the World

On view through April 3, 2022

Don't miss *Icons for Our Time: Orthodox Art from Around the World*. To celebrate the Museum's fifteenth anniversary we commissioned fifteen icons by some of the most important contemporary icon painters. New works by artists from Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Japan, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, the UK, and the US are on display now in the Museum's West Gallery. Visit [museumofrussianicons.org/current-exhibitions/](http://museumofrussianicons.org/current-exhibitions/) for a virtual tour of the exhibit.

Media Sponsor

artscope



*Saint Michael, Aidan Hart, 2021, Egg tempera on wood, United Kingdom*

# VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



## Virtual Art History Course Early Christian Art and Visual Culture

**Saturdays, January 15, 22, 29, and February 5,  
9:30–11:30am EST  
M|\$100, N|\$125**

**Registration ends Monday, January 10  
Limited to 10 participants, see our website for course  
syllabus**

The course offers a concise survey of the first thousand years of Christian art and visual culture with an emphasis on Western Europe. It will trace the side-by-

side development of Byzantine and Latin Christianity and explore the influence and reflection of Byzantine forms in Western art. The small class size will allow students to interact and discuss the material presented.

Dr. Bettina Jungen has earned her PhD in the history of Russian art from the University of Zürich, Switzerland. She has 20+ years' experience teaching art history spanning high school to college level.

*More at [museumofrussianicons.org/art-history](https://www.museumofrussianicons.org/art-history)*

## Virtual Lecture The 16:9 Icon: Cinema and Orthodox Spirituality

**Saturday, January 22, 6:30–7:30pm EST  
M|free, N|\$5**

**Registration ends Friday, January 21, the Zoom link will  
be sent out the morning of the program.**

If film is the skillful weaving together of storytelling, visual cues and emotional tension, what impact does faith have on this creative process? Joining us from Australia, Byzantfest International Orthodox Film Festival Founder Christopher Vlahonasios will examine what makes an Orthodox film "Orthodox" and key components that differentiate it from other genres.



## Virtual Lecture Discovering a Masterpiece

**Wednesday, January 26, 7:00–  
8:00pm EST, Free**

**Register on the Museum's website.**

Mallory Mortillaro serves as the Curator of Collections for the Hartley Dodge Foundation in Madison, NJ. While cataloging their artwork, she uncovered a masterpiece by Auguste Rodin that had been lost to the art world since the 1930s. Mallory shares the story of how a simple art cataloging project evolved into a search for a mysterious piece's provenance, and became one of the biggest art finds in recent history. Presented in partnership with Bigelow Public Library, Chelmsford Public Library, Danvers Peabody Institute Library, and Groton Public Library.

## Virtual Lecture Reverse Perspective, the Politics of Space, and Contemporary Art Practice: On a Book and Exhibition

**Thursday, February 17, 12:00pm EST  
Free, register online at <https://www.iwm.at/upcoming-events>**

In partnership with the Eurasia in Global Dialogue Programme at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna Austria, this lecture will explore "reverse perspective," the theory of space in icons. The Russian icon became the alternative model to Renaissance perspectivism and the Enlightenment project of modernity. The three speakers, Dr. Clemena Antonova, Dr. Volkmar Mühleis, and Wim Goes, will revisit this theory by drawing attention to a recent book *Reverse Perspective* and the exhibition *Icons for Our Time*. The speakers will show the continuing relevance of the politics of space in contemporary art practice against the background of present-day calls for the decolonization of art and culture.



## Virtual Lecture Tolstoy: Many Faces of Love

**Saturday, February 12,  
1:00–2:00pm EST, M|free, N|\$5**

**Registration ends Friday, February 11, the Zoom link will be sent out the morning  
of the program.**

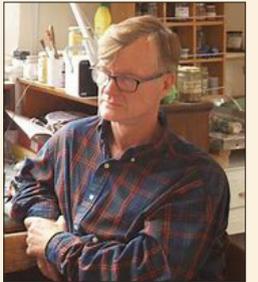
*Anna Karenina* (1878) deals with politics, philosophy, psychology, and ethics, but most profoundly with the nature of love. While the novel will be the centerpiece of this conversation, the lecture will also examine how Tolstoy treated the topic before and after *Anna Karenina*. How did his views on love change over a long and deeply lived life? How were his questions posed and answered in *Family Happiness* (1859) and *The Devil* (1910)? Dr. Svetlana Nikitina will engage text, film, the visual arts, and our own imagination as audiences ponder Tolstoy's own long and winding love story.

Dr. Nikitina is a Professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Humanities and Arts Department.

## Virtual Lecture Icons in the Modern World: A New Way of Seeing

**Saturday, March 5, 1:00–2:00pm  
M|free, N|\$5**

**Registration ends Friday, March  
4, the Zoom link will be sent out the morning of the  
program.**



We live in the world according to how we see the world; our actions follow upon our vision. The tradition of iconography manifests a radical way of seeing material creation, as an expression of divine love and transfigured by God incarnate. In this talk, iconographer Aidan Hart explores how icons manifest this vision in their form as well as in their subject matter. Aidan Hart is a British iconographer whose works can be seen in over twenty countries. He works in a variety of mediums, including egg tempera panel painting, fresco, mosaic, and stone and wood carving. He has published four books, including *Techniques of Icon and Wall Painting*. Aidan teaches a foundation course in icon painting for The Prince's Foundation School of Traditional Arts.

## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Register for all programs & workshops online: [www.museumofrussianicons.org/calendar](https://www.museumofrussianicons.org/calendar) | More information on each program is available on our website | **Program fees are non-refundable** | Masks are mandatory to enter the Museum and participate in programs

# WORKSHOPS



## Virtual Workshop: Russian Winter Painting

**Saturday, January 29, 1:00–3:00pm EST**  
**M|\$12, N|\$15, supplies not included**  
**Registration ends Monday, January 24.**

In the comfort of your own home, paint a beautiful winter landscape while listening to a few Russian poems about winter. Artist Cheryl Hughes will take participants step-by-step as they create a snowy scene dappled with dachas and a Russian church. A supply list and Zoom link will be provided. Cheryl Hughes is the artist behind Tinker's Cart Art, and the owner of The Tinker's Cart Irish & Celtic Gifts located in the Worcester Public Market.



## Workshop: Ethiopian Icon Painting

**March 12–13, 9:00–6:00pm**  
**with 1-hour break**  
**M|\$375, N|\$400**  
**Limited to 10 participants,**  
**registration ends March 1.**

This hands-on workshop will cover the theology, purpose, and spiritual meaning of Ethiopian and Eastern Orthodox icons, the spiritual preparations for painting an icon; and techniques used in the Ethiopian tradition. Each student will complete their own 7x9" Ethiopian representation of the Blessed Virgin and Christ Child using acrylic pigments and a prepared board. Christopher Gosey, founder of Holy Images icon studio, has been writing icons since 1990 and has extensive experience in Russian, Byzantine, and Ethiopian styles. Christopher practices the Gondarine style of Ethiopian iconography, which is characterized by sharply modeled faces, bright, exotic, and richly patterned clothing, and bold, loose, black outlines.

*(Image is a mockup of the icon that will be painted.)*

**Register online: [museumofrussianicons.org/calendar](https://museumofrussianicons.org/calendar)**  
**Workshop fees are nonrefundable.**

# FILMS



## Byzanfest 2021 Double Feature: *Liga* and *500*

**Sunday, January 23, 1:00–2:00pm *Liga***  
**Sunday, January 23, 2:30– 3:00pm *500***  
**Free, limited to 50 seats**

Established in 2014, Byzanfest is an international film festival dedicated to Orthodox Christian cinema.

*Liga: A Romanian Christmas in Concert* is a documentary featuring a Romanian youth group who keep ancient Christmas traditions alive. Through the power of song and through their faith, they bring joy to thousands with beautiful carols and stunning national costumes. Filmed over the month of December 2019, this documentary is a rare look into the Orthodox Christian culture of Romania, and features carols that have never been shown to an English speaking audience.



*500* is a short narrative film that follows Maria, a troubled woman who rescues a mysterious man from drowning. She soon finds out that small kindnesses can come back and change a life.



## Film: *Anna Karenina*

**Sunday, February 13,**  
**1:00pm EST**  
**1935, 90 minutes**  
**Museum and Clinton**  
**Historical Society M|\$6,**  
**N|\$6 + admission**  
**Limited to 50 seats, register**  
**online or by calling the**  
**Museum**

Join us at the Museum to view this 1935 version of Tolstoy's classic *Anna Karenina*. It was directed by Clinton native Clarence Brown and starred Greta Garbo as Anna Karenina, a woman caught in a tragic love affair in Tsarist Russia. Presented in partnership with the Clinton Historical Society, town historian Terry Ingano will introduce the film and provide background on the director. A small exhibit of memorabilia related to Clarence Brown will be on view in the museum's tea room.



## Virtual Contemporary Russian Literature Book Group

**Sunday, January 16, 1:00–3:00pm,**  
**Free**

New members always welcome.  
 This month's book: *Three Apples Fell from the Sky* by Narine Abgaryan.

The tiny village of Maran nestled high in the Armenian mountains, is a place where dreams, curses, and miracles are taken very seriously. This tale of unforeseen twists and unlikely romance turns Maran on its head and breathes a new lease of life into a forgotten village.

Please contact [aconsalvi@museumofrussianicons.org](mailto:aconsalvi@museumofrussianicons.org) for more information.

# Free Admission on First Sundays

Sunday, January 23, February 6, March 6, 11:00am-5:00pm

The first Sunday of each month means free admission courtesy of the Nypro Foundation (note that the free Sunday in January will be held on the 23rd). Drop in for a story or craft. Check our website calendar for details on each Sunday's project.

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MUSEUM OF  
RUSSIAN ICONS

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On the cover: *St. Grigol Peradze*, David Khidasheli, 2021, Egg tempera on wood, Georgia

## WHEN YOU VISIT

### Hours:

Thursday - Sunday  
11:00am - 5:00pm

### Admission:

FREE for Museum members  
Adults \$12  
Seniors \$10  
Students (with ID) \$5  
Children 13 - 17 \$5  
Children under 13 FREE

FREE admission on the first Sunday of each month courtesy of the Nypro Foundation

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Masks are mandatory regardless of vaccination status when visiting the Museum and attending programs

### Mission:

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.



nema NEW ENGLAND  
MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

The Museum participates in the EBT Card to Culture program

