



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPENING JANUARY 26, 2013
Concerning the Spiritual In Russian Art, 1965-2011

MINNEAPOLIS (January 4, 2013)-- The Museum of Russian Art presents *Concerning the Spiritual In Russian Art, 1965-2011*, selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation. Opening January 26th in the Museum's Main and Mezzanine Galleries, the exhibition

brings together seventy paintings, works on paper, photography, sculptures, and installations by forty-seven artists exploring themes of spirituality in the art of the Soviet Union and Russia. The title for the exhibition is derived from Wassily Kandinsky's *Concerning the Spiritual in Art* of 1911, one of the 20th century's most influential books on art theory.

Religion and spirituality played an important role in the post-Stalinist cultural revival as alternatives to Communist ideology. However, until Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to reform the Soviet regime, known as *perestroika*, the exploration of religion through art was unacceptable to Soviet authorities. Even

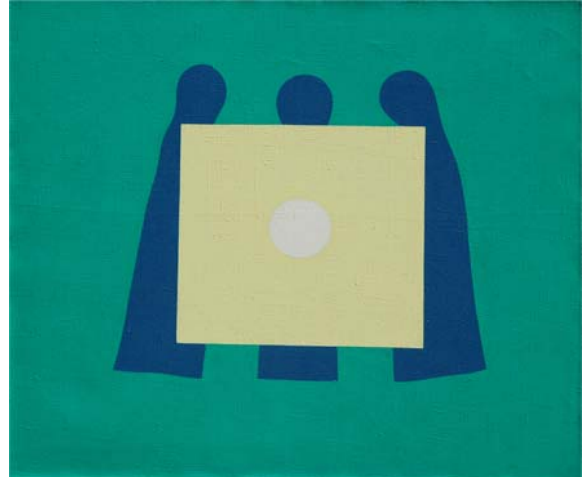
the depictions of churches were considered religious propaganda. During the Soviet era, artworks with religious themes were often removed from exhibitions and banned from public display.

In spite of this, many Soviet artists transcended the anti-religious stance of the government by basing their art upon forbidden religious themes. Religious themes in nonconformist art, or unofficial art, as it was also called, served many purposes: an escape from day-to-day life, a private expression of faith, or a protest to government restrictions on religion.

With the birth of a free and democratic Russia, the lifting of the Iron Curtain in 1989, and access to free discourse and religious expression, Russian artists shifted their priority and perspective. Some artists tried to recapture a sense of what it meant to be Russian by turning to personal narrative subjects. By the mid-1990s, Russia had become part of the international art scene with many of its artists addressing subjects and ideas similar to those of their counterparts in London and New York.



This exhibition presents works by forty-seven artists who can be grouped generationally into three stages. The first group began their careers at the time of Nikita Khrushchev's "Thaw" and took part in the early unofficial exhibitions of the 1960s and 1970s. The second group of artists emerged in the late-1970s and early-1980s. The third group became known during the 1980s to the present. The artists in the exhibition include Anatolii Slepyshev, Francisco Infante, Petr Pushkarev, Gennadii Zubkov, Tatiana Levitskaia, Ernst Neizvestny, Dmitri Plavinsky, Oscar Rabin, Yakov Vinkovetsky, Alena Anosova, Olga Bulgakova, and Oleg Vassiliev, among others.



Museum Director and President Christopher DiCarlo commented, “We are pleased to present this selection of works of art from the world-class collection of the Kolodzei Foundation as a way to complement TMORA’s traditional focus on Soviet Realism by showing these visually and conceptually striking works by Soviet and contemporary Russian artists.”

About the collection: The Kolodzei Collection, founded by Tatiana Kolodzei in Moscow during the height of the Cold War in the 1960s and continuing today with her daughter, Natalia, is one of the world’s largest private art collections. The comprehensive collection, with over 7,000 pieces by more than 300 artists from Russia and the former Soviet Union, chronicles four decades of nonconformist art from the post-Stalinist era to the present. The Kolodzei Art Foundation, Inc., a New Jersey based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public foundation started in 1991, organizes exhibitions and cultural exchanges in museums and cultural centers in the United States, Russia, and other countries, publishes books on Russian art. For additional information visit <http://KolodzeiArt.org>.

Concerning the Spiritual in Russian Art, 1965-2011 is on view through June 9, 2013.

High-resolution images available upon request.

About The Museum of Russian Art (TMORA)

The Museum of Russian Art, a non-profit, educational institution, is the only museum in North America dedicated exclusively to the preservation and exhibition of all forms of Russian art and artifacts from many eras. TMORA is located in a state-of-the-art, historical building at 5500 Stevens Ave. S. (intersection of I-35W and Diamond Lake Road) in Minneapolis. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Saturday) and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday). Admission is \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for children 14 and up, as well as university students with ID; children under 14 are free. Museum members receive free admission. To learn more about the Museum’s exhibitions, events and history, visit <http://tmora.org/> or call 612-821-9045.

For Further Information, please contact:
Randy Maurer, 612-821-9045, rmaurer@tmora.org
Natalia Kolodzei 732-545-8425 Kolodzei@KolodzeiArt.org

###

Concerning the Spiritual In Russian Art, 1965-2011
Selections from the Kolodzei Art Foundation
The Museum of Russian Art
5500 Stevens Ave South
Minneapolis, MN 55419
January 26 – June 9, 2013

List of Artists

Alena Anosova	Tatiana Levitskaia
Petr Belenok	Sergei Maliutin
Edward Bekkerman	Alexander Melamid
Leonid Borisov	Artem Mirolevich
Farid Bogdalov	Igor Molochevski
Olga Bulgakova	Ernst Neizvestny
Oleg Bourov	Natalia Nesterova
Irene Caesar	Shimon Okshteyn
Mihail Chemiakin	Vladimir Ovchinikov
Sergei Denisov	Dmitri Plavinsky
Maria Elkonina	Valerii Pianov
Rimma Gerlovina	Petr Pushkarev
Valeriy Gerlovin	Oscar Rabin
Dimitry Gerrman	San San Kara (Alexander Karasev)
Francisco Infante	Ekatherina Savtchenko
Otari Kandaurov	Alexander Sitnikov
Anton S. Kandinsky	Eduard Shteinberg
Konstantin Khudyakov	Anatolii Slepyshev
Vyacheslav Koleichuk	Alexei Tyapushkin
Vitaly Komar	Oleg Vassiliev
Natalia Kostaki	Yakov Vinkovetsky
Ivan Kolesnikov	Alexander Zakharov
Yefim Ladyzhensky	Gennadii Zubkov
Valentina Lebedeva	