



THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ICONS ANNOUNCES NEW PROGRAM SERIES: RUSSKIE POSIDELKI *Conversation, Community, and Conviviality*

First Thursday, November 2, 6:00-8:00pm

First Thursday, December 7, 6:30-8:00pm

Free program and free admission on the first Thursday of each month from 4:00-8:00pm

CLINTON, MA – The Museum of Russian Icons is introducing a new series of programs based on the rural Slavic custom of *posidelki* (“to sit a while”), a traditional fall and winter evening gathering when peasants shared conversation, jokes, songs, food, and handicrafts. Larger festive *posidelki* with music, dancing, games, and rich dinners took place on holidays and other special occasions.

The Museum’s *posidelki* series will focus on conversation: an informal, open discussion and exchange of ideas related to Russian traditions, culture, history, language, literature, and the arts. Anyone curious and/or passionate about Russia is welcome to share experiences, ask questions, or just come to listen and learn. Attendees are encouraged to bring their knitting, whittling, embroidery, or other lap-size projects to work on while we talk!

The debut session on November 2 is a special two-hour program that begins at 6:00pm and will feature tea, vodka, smoked salmon, and other *zakuska* (Russian hors d’oeuvres). Hostess Mila Subbotina, the Museum’s Russian Community Liaison, will lead a conversation about Russian and American sayings, idioms, and other linguistic quirks, and will also invite ideas for shaping the *posidelki* series.

The December 7 gathering begins at 6:30, and will include traditional tea service and Russian treats. Topic TBA.

Look for the “*Posidelki Post*” box at the Museum to submit questions and topic ideas for upcoming sessions.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS CURRENTLY ON VIEW

MIGRATION +MEMORY

Jewish Artists of the Russian and Soviet Empires *from the Vladimir and Vera Torchilin Collection*
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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The Museum of Russian Icons presents *Migration + Memory: Jewish Artists of the Russian and Soviet Empires*. The exhibition features approximately 100 works drawn from the Vladimir and Vera Torchilin Collection that explore the creative responses and historical trajectories of Jewish artists born, trained, or active in the Russian and/or Soviet Empires in the twentieth century. Organized by Boston's Ballets Russes Arts Initiative and curated by BRAI's Executive Director, Anna Winestein, the show is structured around the themes of migration and memory that are central to the Jewish experience in this period.

FROM FIREBIRD TO FISHERMAN: TWELVE FAIRY

TALE PLATES

October 28, 2017-March 18, 2018

Twelve decorative plates designed and crafted by accomplished artists from the villages of Palekh, Kholui, and Fedoskino are featured in this small-scale exhibition. Each plate illustrates a different Russian fairy tale, examples of the myths and legends that provide a window into Russia's fascinating and diverse history and culture.

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 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 museumofrussianicons.org.