

THE ICON MUSEUM AND STUDY CENTER



FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Museum's 17th Birthday celebration and Big Reveal on October 14th was a resounding success. After a year of painstaking work, during which we carefully crafted our new strategy in close collaboration with the staff, board, museum members, community members, colleagues and other stakeholders, we were finally able to reveal our new name: The Icon Museum and Study Center!

Change always presents new opportunities. We developed a new mission and vision that reflect the Museum's aspirations to become a destination and leader in scholarship in the US for icons and Eastern Christian art. We aim to look beyond borders and we aspire to share the deep spirituality and incredible artistry of Russian, Greek, Veneto-Cretan, and Ethiopian icons with the world. Including the Study Center in the new name conveys a clear message: We will foster research, innovative ideas, and cultural understanding through scholarly programs, lectures, conferences, and internships, and also seek partnerships with museums, academic institutions, and private collectors worldwide.

On October 14th we also renamed the Main Gallery the Gordon B. Lankton Gallery, the Entrance Gallery the Greek Gallery and launched a brand-new website www.iconmuseum.org. How exciting! I sincerely hope that you all will come and visit us again "for the first time." The icons are awaiting you.

Simon Morsink, Executive Director



WHAT'S ON

The Gordon B. Lankton Gallery

In tribute to our founder, we renamed our Main Gallery the Gordon B. Lankton Gallery. This newly installed gallery features more dramatic lighting, generously sponsored by the Schwartz Foundation, and showcases a selection of the finest Russian icons from Gordon's collection, offering a comprehensive overview of the history of Russian icon painting and its main themes and schools. Here you can view the magnificent Royal Doors, the monumental Christ in Majesty, and many other gems of the collection.



The Gordon B Lankton gallery

The Greek Gallery

The new Greek Gallery (formerly Entrance Gallery) houses an ancient Fayum portrait, generously gifted by collectors and friends of the Museum Emmanuel and Argie Tiliakos. It features a fine selection of Greek and Veneto-Cretan icons, including the splendid Virgin of the Life-Giving Source generously donated by Dr Emilio Bizzi and a fascinating 15th-century Pietà (seen on the right), attributed to the famous icon painter Nikolaos Tzafouris, which was recently received on long-term loan from a private collector based in Massachusetts. The bright gold background and rich color palette of these icons is a breathtaking way to embark on a tour of the Museum.



Pietà, attributed to Nikolaos Tzafouris, late 15th century, oil on wood, Veneto-Cretan, on loan from a private collection

Introducing the New Curator of The Icon Museum and Study Center

We are elated to announce the appointment of Justin Willson PhD as curator of The Icon Museum and Study Center! Justin comes to the IM+SC from the Cleveland Museum of Art where he has been the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Art History Leadership since September 2022. Justin earned his PhD in the Department of Art & Archaeology at Princeton University in 2021, writing a dissertation on the art of early Muscovy with a focus on icons, frescoes, and illuminated manuscripts. During his graduate training, Justin studied on a Fulbright Scholarship in the Division of Old Russian Art at Moscow State University, visiting icon and manuscript collections across Russia. He has also conducted fieldwork in Ukraine, Greece, Turkey, and Armenia, as well as in US archives. Prior to his graduate training, he taught high school literature and ran a neighborhood rehabilitation nonprofit in Albany, Georgia. Justin seeks to instill a love for art in museum visitors, students, and community leaders, revealing how beauty, wonder, and history play an essential role in shaping our shared experience.



Justin is thrilled to join the IM+SC, where he sees tremendous opportunity for developing programs for the Study Center, increasing the visibility and accessibility of the collection, partnering with area universities and community stakeholders, and collaborating on exhibitions which show the breadth of the tradition of icon painting and its integral role in the history of art.

HOLIDAY SEASON

2023 Members Holiday Celebration

Thursday, December 7, 5:00-7:00 pm

Members and a guest of their choice are invited to the Museum's Holiday Celebration. Please join us for festive treats and the annual lighting of our holiday tree in the Gordon B. Lankton Gallery. Award-winning pianist Ekaterina Willewald will play a selection of festive music to summon the holiday spirit. Please RSVP by Friday, December 1, and we'll save you a place near the tree!

Ekaterina Willewald has participated in many prestigious events, such as the Alexander Scriabin Festival Broadcast in Moscow, the International Piano Festival Meranofest in Italy, the Liszt Series at The Yamaha Artist Piano Salon in New York City, and others. She is a founder, lecturer, and performer in the piano concert series at Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main and specializes in Russian and European composers and their masterworks.



Christmas Finds in the Shop

The Museum Gift Shop offers an enchanting array of gifts including Christmas-themed nesting dolls, ornaments, carved wooden Santas, books, and jewelry. Come in and shop for your loved ones while supporting the Museum! As always, members receive 10% off most shop items. Keep an eye on our social media and email updates for special holiday sales!



Annual Toy Drive

Bring in a new, unwrapped toy for the Clinton Elementary School's Holiday Toy Drive and receive free admission for one, (members can receive a pass to give to a friend).

Last day to turn in a toy is December 3.



Saint Nicholas, late 16th century, egg tempera on wood, Russia

Saint Nicholas

December 6 is known worldwide as the feast day of Saint Nicholas or Saint Nicholas Day by many in the West. Those who follow the Julian calendar celebrate this feast day December 19.

Saint Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop in what is now Turkey. He is renowned as the protector of the weak and poor. Stories of Saint Nicholas giving

gifts to the needy and protecting children spread far and wide as people traveled or emigrated to other countries.

We Need Your Support!

Our Museum serves as a place of respite and contemplation, which is more critical now than ever in the global context of bitter strife and deep division. If you believe, as we do, that these moments of tranquility at The Icon Museum and Study Center are of value, please consider making a year-end gift.

Your support will enable us to offer inspiring programs, promote scholarship on Eastern Christian art, and illuminate the art of the icon for audiences near and far. Your tax-deductible donation, in any amount, will help maintain the Museum as a place to learn, engage, and reflect.

To donate, visit iconmuseum.org/support or scan the QR code:



Free admission on the first Sunday of each month courtesy of the Nypro Foundation.



Spirituality in Eastern Christianity

IMAGES OF A LIVING TRADITION

On view through January 21, 2024

The Icon Museum and Study Center presents *Spirituality in Eastern Christianity: Images of a Living Tradition*, an exhibition of photographs by Alain de Lotbinière. The 23 images that compose this exhibition were taken during the course of several trips to Northern Macedonia, Serbia, and Russia, as well as during visits to sites in Turkey and Egypt.

"Do the images convey a sense of the spiritual? Yes, they do, and with a depth of feeling that is almost palpable. At their best, de Lotbinière's photographs are tactile as well as visual. They let us feel the force of spirituality as well as see it manifested." - Mark Feeney, *Boston Globe*, October 1, 2023



After the Holy Eucharist