



ILLUMINATING THE ART OF THE SACRED ICON

EXPLORE THE ETERNAL BEAUTY, FASCINATING HISTORY, AND DEEP SPIRITUALITY OF ICONS.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are proud to share the progress we have made in 2025 and even more excited by the momentum carrying us forward into 2026, when the Icon Museum and Study Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Our exhibitions remain at the heart of our mission. In May, we opened *Heavenly Excess: Luxe Icons from Late Imperial Russia*, featuring lavish icons and liturgical objects decorated with silver, gold, pearls, and semi-precious stones. Our summer exhibition, *George Kordis: A Contemporary Iconographer*, organized alongside a week-long icon painting workshop, received enthusiastic responses from visitors intrigued by the vitality of contemporary icon painting.

A real milestone was the opening of the new permanent Greek Icon Gallery in October. This new permanent exhibition further strengthens our position as a leading institution for the study of Eastern Christian art in North America. Highlights include two exquisite panels by Georgios Klontzas, generously donated by Board Trustee Ruah Donnelly in honor of her late stepfather, Richard “Dick” Dearborn, and a group of important Byzantine and Greek icons that we received on long-term loan from collectors Emmanuel and Argie Tiliakos. In addition, an excellent 15th-century triptych on loan from the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, arrived to be displayed in this new gallery.

For our permanent collection, we acquired a rare 17th-century double-sided Russian processional icon with its original pole, formerly in the renowned Hann Collection, as well as an 18th-century Greek of St. Luke Painting the Madonna. Also, we received a generous gift of Ukrainian icons from the collection of Franklin Sciacca, another longtime friend of our Museum, along with a generous donation dedicated to conservation.

In October, the Study Center published the fourth issue of the *Journal of Icon Studies*, featuring papers from our international conference, *Collecting Orthodox Art in the West*. Our internship programs

continued to thrive, welcoming Eirini Remboulis as the Catherine Mannick Research Intern and Cathy Keough as the John Barns Research Intern. In June, the Kentur Russell Lecture, with internationally renowned gallerist and icon expert Sir Richard Temple, was also a resounding success.

In 2025, we bid farewell to our Curator, Justin Willson, who accepted a new position as Assistant Professor at Yale University. Shortly thereafter, Justin organized a special viewing for the Friends of the Icon Museum of highlights from Yale’s renowned collection of Byzantine manuscripts and icons. In September, we welcomed Elliot Mackin as our new Curator and Study Center Manager, who fits seamlessly into our team. We are delighted that he has made his home in Clinton, steps from the Museum. Melanie Trottier moved on to a new role at the Spanish-American Center, and Taylor Barros stepped into the Manager of Administration role, where she is already excelling. Most recently, we welcomed Isabella Scarpati Toledo as our new Manager of Visitor Services and Membership. Together with Anna, Danielle, and Laura, this remarkable group forms a dedicated, collaborative team we are proud to work with every day.

As we look ahead, we are energized by what lies before us. With your continued support, the Icon Museum and Study Center is steadily becoming a one-of-a-kind crossroads for Eastern Christian art in the United States, welcoming visitors from near and far.

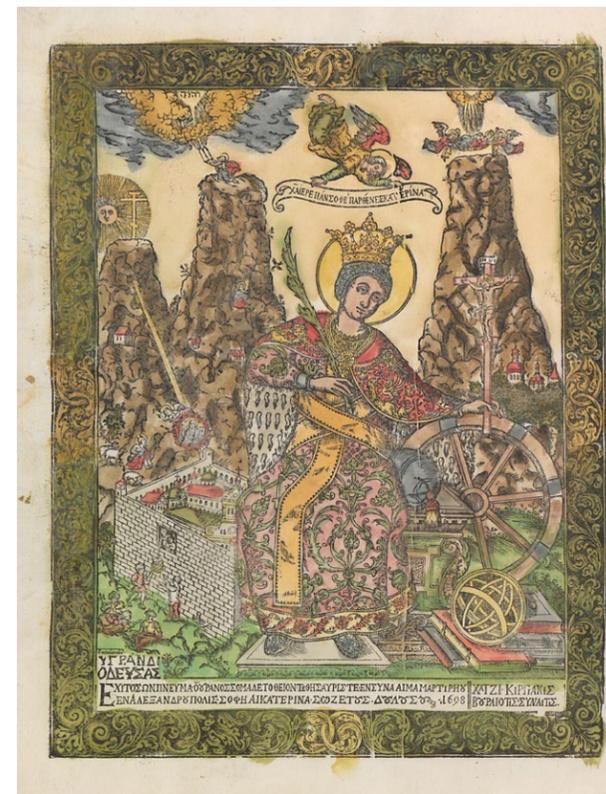
Thank you for being part of this journey.

Simon Morsink
Executive Director





EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS



UNVEILING MIRACLES: A JOURNEY THROUGH SAINT NICHOLAS'S LIFE

December 6, 2024–February 22, 2026

Curated by Justin Willson

Unveiling Miracles: A Journey through Saint Nicholas's Life is a one-icon installation featuring a delicately painted Saint Nicholas depicting thirty-two episodes from his life and posthumous miracles. The icon, received as a gift from Lynette and Brandon Hull, was crafted in exquisite detail, a crowning achievement of a Russian nineteenth-century Old Believer workshop.

HEAVENLY EXCESS: LUXE ICONS FROM LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA

May 16, 2025–January 11, 2026

Curated by Justin Willson

Heavenly Excess: Luxe Icons from Late Imperial Russia explores the fascinating world of religious icons adorned with decorative covers known as revetments. This exhibition showcases the use of luxurious materials, including enamel, and intricate techniques such as filigree and engraving, which are combined with ornamental patterns and décor in gold and silver. The exhibition showcases remarkable works by well-known artisans, including Semenov, Zverev, Kurlyukov, Ovchinnikov, Khlebnikov, and Pankratyev, reflecting a Neo-Byzantine style reminiscent of medieval Constantinople and the origins of East Slavic Christianity in Crimea. The extraordinary works come from esteemed collections, including the Russian History Museum in Jordanville, NY, the Eparchy of Passaic, and the Bob Jones University Museum & Gallery in South Carolina.

PRINTING ICONS: MODERN PROCESS, MEDIEVAL IMAGE

October 18, 2024–March 30, 2025

Curated by Justin Willson

Printing Icons: Modern Process, Medieval Image explored the way print and icon painting interacted over the seventeenth to early twentieth centuries. It showcased works from across the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Russia to illuminate how traditional techniques, such as printing icons after traced panels, shaped perceptions of woodblocks and engravings, and how Western techniques transformed icon painting itself. *Printing Icons* brought together over sixty works from seven institutions and private collections to explore the methods used to create iconic prints.

EXHIBITIONS & INSTALLATIONS

GEORGE KORDIS: A CONTEMPORARY ICONOGRAPHER

June 26, 2025–September 14, 2025

Curated by Justin Willson

George Kordis: A Contemporary Iconographer celebrated the innovative and captivating works of the Athens-based iconographer. Dr. George Kordis is internationally recognized as a leading artist and scholar in the contemporary revival of the Byzantine icon tradition and has exhibited in museums and galleries throughout Europe. The intimate selection of icons represented Kordis's artistry and his deep understanding of how color and form interrelate to create a visual narrative. Kordis's palette comprised broken hues on the cooler end of the color spectrum. He uses tints that diverge gently from one another and combine to create soft, flowing forms that complement the crisp, gently edged shapes. Often, a hand, leg, wing, billow of cloth, stone, or chain extends beyond the inner rectangle and onto the border. The color and form of these elements are especially important, as they bring the image into the world, involving the sacred events in the viewer's life, who in turn is invited into the story.



GREEK ICON GALLERY

Curated by Elliot Mackin

The story of Greek icon painting after the fall of Constantinople in 1453 offers a fascinating glimpse into the processes of innovation, artistic exchange, and continuity of Greek art and culture. Spread across a vast diaspora from Mount Athos to Venice, Crete, and Western Anatolia, Greek icon styles offer insight into the dialogue between the new learning of the Renaissance and Orthodox religious ideals. As they fled the expanding Ottoman Empire, iconographers from Greek-trained workshops found work in the Venetian colony of Candia (Heraklion) on Crete and in the growing émigré communities in Venice and beyond. The installation features icons from the Icon Museum's permanent collection, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas, as well as pieces from the private collection of Emmanuel and Argie Tiliakos, passionate collectors and experts in Greek icons.

ENTRANCE GALLERY

Curated by Elliot Mackin

At the end of 2025 we began transforming the entry level into a gallery that represents the whole world of the icon. At the heart of the space are our beautifully re-installed sixteenth century feast-day icons from Pskov in northern Russia. This striking composition is framed by Greek, Russian, and Venetian icons of the Mother of God. This gallery serves as a complement to our Orientation Gallery, and gives visitors a sense of the cultural breadth represented at the Icon Museum and Study Center





MESSAGE FROM THE CURATOR

Since I joined the Icon Museum and Study Center in early September, I have been caught up in the energy of the place. In the fall, we initiated a series of monthly curator-led icon tours based on the seasons of the year. This has been a lovely way to get to know the collection alongside visitors, members, and staff. At the end of October, we opened our new permanent Greek Icon Gallery. This gallery features generous loans from Argie and Emmanuel Tiliakos, Agnew's Gallery London, and the Klontzas masterpieces donated by Ruah Donnelly. The opening of the gallery is a major milestone for the Icon Museum as we mature from Gordon Lankton's exceptional collection of Russian icons to a global center for the study and appreciation of the world of the icon.

Over the past year, the Study Center has seen important growth with the publication of Volume 4 of the *Journal of Icon Studies* and the formation of a Study Center Committee. This new committee—composed of leading experts—will advise on the future activities of the Study Center. In November, the Study Center hosted students from Harvard, Yale, and Holy Cross. In February, we will be hosting an international study day held in conjunction with the opening of our new loan exhibition *Icons: Old Believers and Their World*. This promises to be an invigorating event, bringing people together at the Study Center around a shared interest in our museum.

Our collection has expanded in significant ways over the past year. Generous donations by Franklin Sciacca have expanded the breadth of our collection with pieces from Ukraine. Newly acquired pieces include an extremely rare seventeenth century double-sided processional icon from the George Hann collection, a fascinating icon of St. Luke Painting the Mother of God now in our Greek Gallery, and a double-sided triptych from the Dalmatian Coast dating to around 1500.

Looking forward, in October we will be opening a significant loan exhibition from the Ikonen-Museum Recklinghausen, which tells the parallel stories of Greek and Russian icon painting after the Fall of Constantinople. In conjunction with this exhibition, we will be hosting an international conference bringing together leading scholars to study a selection of the best icons from our collection. The proceedings of this conference will be published as a catalogue of essays.

When I moved here from New York six months ago, I came out of my love for icons; since then, I have come to be very fond of the people who make it such a special place. There is a palpable momentum here at the Icon Museum and Study Center, and I am so grateful to be part of it.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Rhythm and Light Icon Workshop

Instructor: Dr. George Kordis

Panel Discussion and Artist's Talk

Guest: Dr. George Kordis

Annual Kent dur Russell Lecture: *Born of the Virgin Mary, a Study in Esoteric Christianity*

Speaker: Sir Richard Temple

Scholarly Double Feature: Print and Icons

Speakers: Dr. Ioana Feodorov and Dr. Vera Chintsa

Print and Icons Study Day

Guests: Dr. Ioana Feodorov and Dr. Vera Chintsa

Icons After Dark: Medium and Materials



Saints and Demons: An All Hallows Eve Tour with the Curator

Guide: Elliot Mackin

Advent at the Icon Museum: A Christmas Tour with the Curator

Guide: Elliot Mackin

Friends of the Icon Museum trip

Destination: Yale Art Gallery and Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Afternoon with the Author: Glenn Peers

Film Screening: *Where Are You, Adam?*

Visiting Producer: Oleksandr Plyska

Piano Concert: *The Blue Danube*

Performer: Ekaterina Willewald

Harp Concert: *Harvest, Halloween & Celtic New Year*

Performer: Áine Minogue

Pysanky Workshops

Instructor: Hanka Robertson

Drop-in Gallery Tours

Guide: Various Volunteer Tour Guides

Highland Street Foundation's August Adventures at the Icon Museum

Free First Sunday:
Slow Art Experience

Free First Sunday:
Holy Woman of the Icon Museum collection

Free First Sunday:
Discovering Color

Free First Sunday:
Animals in Icons

Free First Sunday:
Glitz and Glitter

Free First Sunday:
Great Feasts

Free First Sunday:
Community Christmas Tree Decorating

Free Family Thursday:
Writing in Color

Free Family Thursday:
Saints and Heros

Free Family Thursday:
The Art of Illumination

Grants

In 2025, the **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** awarded us a conservation grant for the restoration of four important post-Byzantine Greek and Cretan icons in our permanent collection, which previously were inaccessible to the public due to their condition. The **Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture** also graciously awarded us a grant to cover the costs for one scholarly participant and two graduate students to attend our upcoming 2026 symposium. Visitors of our brand-new Greek Icon Gallery can now appreciate the collection in a newer light thanks to the **Schwartz Foundation's** grant toward improved lighting in the gallery.

Several grants supported our local community, especially young families. A stipend from the **Freedom's Way National Heritage Area: Hidden Treasures** program allowed us to purchase supplies for

a brand-new art activity for students, *Writing in Color*, designed by our staff to emphasize the importance of mixing pigments to create shades of paint as iconographers are trained to do. Last but certainly not least, the **Nypro Foundation** continued their long-time support of the museum by funding the ever-popular Free First Sunday program, which continues to be our most popular admission day every month especially among Clinton-based families.

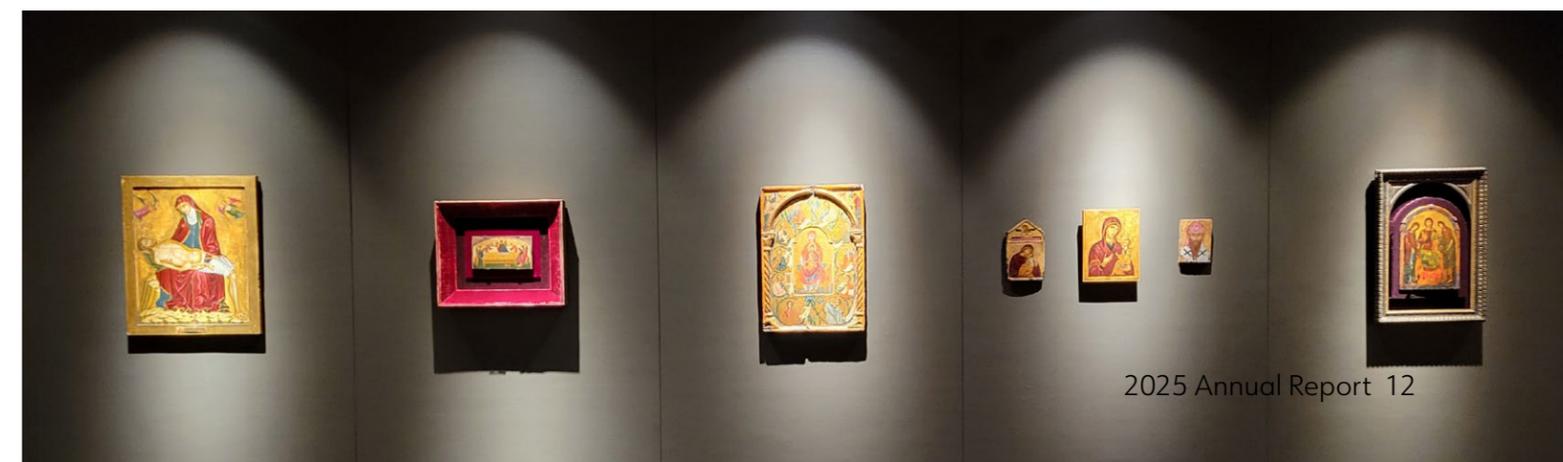
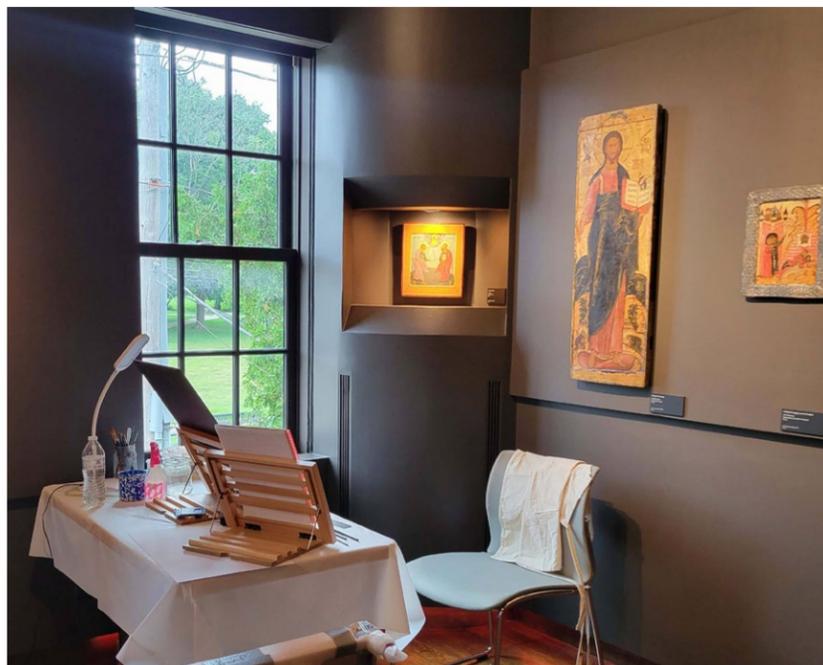
The Museum gratefully acknowledges this integral support which enables us to strive for excellence in exhibits and programs, improve the visitor experience, and strengthen ties to our community.

Partnerships

Clinton Public Schools

Lancaster Boy Scouts

Worcester and Clinton Area Chambers of Commerce



NEW ACQUISITIONS 2025

Two Arched Wings from a Triptych

George Klontzas

Late 16th century

Crete

Egg tempera on wood

20 x 16.4 cm (each)

Donated by Ruah Donnelly in honor of Dick Dearborn, 2024

Old Believer Carved Icon

19th century

Russia

Wood

25.25 x 20.4 cm

Gift of the Mihich Family, 2025

Processional Icon with the Mother of God and Saint Nicholas

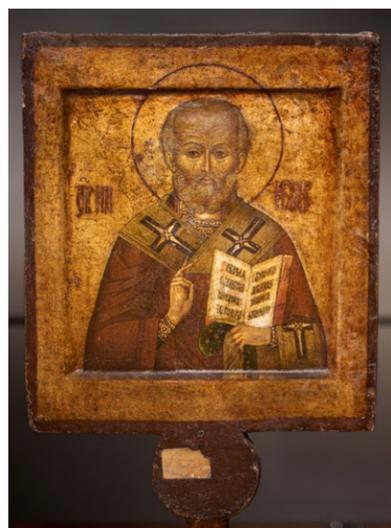
17th century

Russia

Egg tempera on wood

121.3 x 31.8 cm

Museum purchase, the Gordon B. Lankton Collections Fund



Saint Luke

18th century

Asia Minor

Egg tempera on wood, gold leaf

45 x 36

Museum purchase, the Gordon B. Lankton Collections Fund

Triptych with Feasts and Saints

Circa 1500

Veneto-Crete

Egg tempera on wood

20.5 x 17.5 cm (closed)

Museum purchase, the Gordon B. Lankton Collections Fund

Mother of God of Pochayiv with Scenes

19th century

Russia

Egg tempera on wood, gold leaf

42 x 34.4 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

Pair of Church Banners with Saints

19th century

Ukraine

Paint on canvas

73 x 62.5 cm (each)

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

The Appearance of the Mother of God at Pochayiv

18th century

Ukraine

Paint on Canvas

69 x 52.5 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca

The Appearance of the Mother of God at Pochayiv

18th century

Ukraine

Oil paint on wood

46.5 x 35.5 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca

Pair of Icons of Saint Nicholas and the Mother of God of Pochayiv

19th century

Ukraine

Egg tempera on wood

45.3 x 33.4 cm (each)

Gift of Franklin Sciacca

Crucifix Pendant

19th century

Ukraine

Metal

9.1 x 7.3 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

Crucifix

19th century

Ukraine

Wood

23.2 x 8.4 x 1.6

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

The Appearance of the Mother of God at Pochayiv

Late 19th century

Ukraine

Egg tempera on wood

39.5 x 29.6 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

Mother of God of Pochayiv

19th century

Ukraine

Egg tempera on wood

52.4 x 43.7 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

The Appearance of the Mother of God at Pochayiv

19th century

Ukraine

Bronze

12.1 x 9.2

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

The Mother of God of Pochayiv

19th century

Ukraine

Paint on wood

39 x 23.2 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

Pendant with Saint Paraskeva

18th century

Ukraine

Bronze

5 x 4.4 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025

Library, Ephemera, and Archives Acquisitions:

The Appearance of the Mother of God at Pochayiv

Late 19th century

Ukraine

Lithograph on tin, wood, fabric

13.5 x 11.2 cm

Gift of Franklin Sciacca, 2025



Simon Morsink with Ruah Donnelly at the opening of the Greek Icon Gallery

ANNUAL GIVING

\$30,000 and Above

Ruah Donnelly & Steve Dinkelaker
Lynette & Brandon Hull
Catherine Mannick
Margaret Patel

\$10,000 and Above

Jack McCabe
Franklin Sciacca

\$5,000 and Above

Amy Adams & William Adams,
The Amy S. & William G. Adams
Charitable Fund

Eric Brose, Brose Hie Hill
Foundation

Ann Molloy, J. Irving & Jane L.
England Charitable Trust

Ted Lapres & Connie Keeran

\$1,000 and Above

Elaine Davis

Ellen Dunlap

Allen Fletcher

The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool

Richard J. Hoeske

Karen Lankton Schmidt &
Michael Schmidt

William (Bill) O'Neil, Jr.

Kent & Aisling Russell

David Stadtherr

Lynne & George Tonna

Irene Weigel, Plato Malozemoff
Foundation

André van Hese

\$500 and Above

Mark & Elise Forbes Seeley

Wayne & Carmen Huntoon

Daniel & Margaret McCarthy

Paul & Wilhelmina Van Der
Wansem

Nicholas Yovanovic

\$250 and Above

Nicholas Dubiago

Mary Beth Dziewietin

Barbara Gerzonich

Grace Grant & Dennis Tierney

Sarah (Sally) Pratt

Marian Pruslin

Christine Worobec

Worcester Forum

Made in Honor of

Pamela Giannatsis *in honor of
the Icon Museum Employees*

Thomas and Susan O'Connor *in
honor of Merry Christmas!*

André van Hese *in honor of
Sigrid van Hese*

Made in Memory of

Mary Beth Dziewietin *in memory
of Alexey Mikhailovich Lidov*

Igor Dumbadze *in memory of
Andrew Sokolov*

Stephen Humble *in memory of
Gordon Lankton*

Donald Bisset *in memory of
Jennie Corchemny*

Mary Glasspool *in memory of
Professor Truman Bullard*

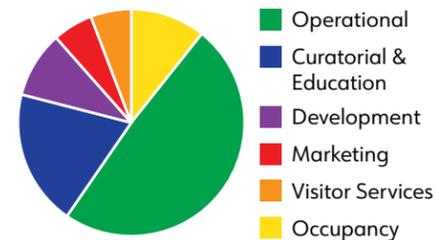
Brian & Susan Schanning *in
memory of QCD*

Sylvia Cotter *in memory of
Robert W. Cotter*

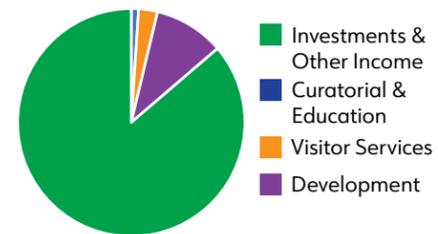
David Stadtherr *in memory of
Sharon Stadtherr*

Lila Packer *in memory of
Tolmachev / Knezevic Families*

2025 Expenses before Depreciation & Taxes



2025 Earned Income



FRIENDS OF THE ICON MUSEUM

The Friends of the Icon Museum is a group of donors who give \$1,000 or more to the Annual Appeal each year. By joining as a Friend, you can support research on previously unexplored topics related to icons, strengthen ties to area universities and institutions abroad, and study Eastern Christian art in the company of like-minded icon lovers and experts.

The year's annual excursion was a behind-the-scenes tour of the Yale Art Gallery's icons and Byzantine books from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Watch this space for the next Friends excursion and find out how you can take part: www.iconmuseum.org/friends/

Thank you to our Friends

- Amy & William Adams
- Eric Brose
- Sarah Cupp
- Elaine Davies
- Ruah Donnelly & Steve Dinkelaker
- Ellen Dunlap
- Allen Fletcher
- The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool
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- Richard Hoeske
- Lynette & Brandon Hull
- Karen Lankton Schmidt & Michael Schmidt
- Ted Lapres & Connie Keeran
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- Margie Patel
- Kent & Aisling Russell
- Wendy Salmond
- Frank Sciacca
- David Stadtherr
- George & Lynne Tonna
- Irene Weigel



Friends trip to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF

Museum Members: 442

Institutional Members: 17

Corporate Members: 1

Individual, Senior, Senior Dual,
Family Plus: 386

Lifetime Members: 8

Complimentary Members: 30

Institutional Members

Bigelow Free Public Library
(Clinton)

Boylston Public Library/Berlin
Public Library

Brookline Public Library

Clinton Rotary Club

Forbush Memorial Library
(Westminster)

Harvard Public Library

Lawrence Library (Pepperell)

Leominster Public Library

Levi Heywood Memorial
Library (Gardner)

Lunenburg Public Library

Maynard Public Library

Morse Institute Library (Natick)

Sargent Memorial Library
(Boxborough)

Southborough Public Library

Thayer Memorial Library
(Lancaster)

Townsend Public Library

UMass Medical School Lamar
Soutter Library

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Cynthia Carlson
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Isabella Scarpato Toledo
**Visitor Services and
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Danielle Shabo
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Eben Taylor
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Melanie Trottier
Manager of Administration

Justin Willson
Curator

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Internship in Museum Studies**

Cathy Keough, **John Barns
Research Internship**

Josie Lindesay, **High School
Practicum Internship**

Abigail Matthews, **Practicum
Internship in Public History**

Eirini Remboulis, **Catherine
Mannick Research Internship**

2025 Volunteers

Norm Eggert

Karen Reilly

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Sandra Chiavaras Cucchiara

Larissa Dyan

Sandra Larson

Catherine Mannick

Art Norman

Michael Popik

Dennis Sardella

Beth Woodruff

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Ann Molloy

Simon Morsink

William (Bill) O'Neil, Jr.



OUR MISSION

The Icon Museum and Study Center illuminates the art of the sacred icon for a global audience. We serve as a leading center for dialogue on icons as a diverse and living tradition. We inspire learning and understanding through innovative exhibitions, programs, and scholarship.

OUR CORE VALUES

Inspiration – Exciting curiosity and discovery

Diversity – Embracing all individuals, cultures, and expressions

Accessibility – Ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment

Integrity – Maintaining the highest ethical standards in all we do



Please consider becoming a member or donating to the Icon Museum and Study Center. Information is available on our website:
www.iconmuseum.org/support/
Photography: John Cannon, Norm Eggert, Andy Ryan, Danielle Shabo, and Anna Farwell



GREEK ICON GALLERY



Triptych with Scenes of the Passion and Resurrection
Circle of Georgios Klontzas
Late 16th century
Egg tempera on wood, gold leaf
Crete
Museum Purchase, the Gordon B. Lasker Collections Fund
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