

ART SHOWCASE

Moscow World Fine Art Fair

From the 19th-century cabinetmaker Francois Linke, a folding screen in richly sculpted golden wood features painted panels by Georges-Antoine Rochegrosse.



CHADELAUD GALLERY

Highlights | Russian artists and eye-catching jewelry

A look at some of the fairest of the fair's offerings

Moscow's World Fine Art Fair is set to dazzle the eye and the mind with more than 1,000 items on display and for sale from May 29 to June 4.

Works range from 16th-century Italian sculpture on display at the Galerie Rattou-Ladrière to fine English furniture from Partidge Fine Art Ltd. and antique books of Bernard Shapero Rare Books.

Many of the world's best galleries will gather in Moscow, where faigoers will be able to find a number of gems such as the wooden and gilt bronze "Grande Vitrine de Milieu," made for the Saint Louis World's Fair in 1904, brought by the Galerie Michel-Guy Chadelaud.

The Chadelaud gallery, which has taken part in the Moscow fair since it began, will present a set of antique furniture stamped by the 19th-century cabinetmaker François Linke.

The central item on the Chadelaud stand will be the grand mahogany cabinet made for the Saint Louis World's Fair. Other Linke items include a grand display cabinet and a folding screen in richly sculpted golden wood, with delicately painted panels by George-Antoine Rochegrosse depicting romantic scenes of courting couples.

As usual, the fair brings artists known throughout the world to Moscow. Two paintings by Pieter Brueghel the Younger can be seen courtesy of the Dutch gallery Galerie De Jonckheere, which is exhibiting the artist's "Massacre of the Innocents."

Modern and Impressionist paintings have been popular among Russians at international auctions. Last year, a Russian buyer is rumored to have spent some \$95.2 million on Picasso's "Dora Maar au Chat" at a Sotheby's sale in New York.

No works at such stratospheric prices will be available at the fair, yet there will be works by Claude Monet and Joan Miró among the gems. The Chowaikei Mosionzhnik Gallery Shkola brings Monet's "Gelée Blanche à Giverny" from 1887 and Joan Miró's "Paysage de Mont-Roig" from 1916.

Much of what is on sale is aimed at the Russian market, which means an abundance of Russian artists and items connected with Russia.

Visitors can see much of Russian history at the fair. They can begin with a Russian imperial tapestry brought by Suslov Fine Art. The item has a floral design complete with the monogram of the empress of Russia Anna Ioannovna, which dates back to the beginning of the 18th century.

Farther on is an 1812 plan of Moscow — on sale by the London dealer Bernard Sharpes Books. Those who look carefully will be able to see the area where the Manège (housing the fair) would later be built.

Chagall aplenty

One of the most popular artists at the exhibition is not unknown to the Russian audience. The Moscow fair boasts at least six paintings by Marc Chagall, five from the Tamanéga gallery and another, "La Benediction de Jacob," from the Bouquinerie de l'Institut of Paris. Another Chagall can be found at the Gallery Le Minotaure.

The Tamanéga gallery is coming to the fair for the first time. Russia's reputation for its "big spenders" persuaded the gallery to participate, says a spokesperson.

Beyond Chagall, the Moscow Academy of Fine Arts brings Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin's vivid painting "Russia in Mother's Hands," while the Gelman Gallery has a selection of Russian contemporary art, such as the playful and often shocking work of the Blue Noses group.

The Georgian artist and gallery owner Zurab Tsereteli, who is one of the most famous sculptors in modern Russia, will display some of his paintings as well as a sculpture of Charlie Chaplin.

Even in jewelry, the Russian connection is often present. Karl Fabergé, the imperial court jeweler to the last czar, is represented with a silver and enamel tea box, displayed by the Moscow gallery the Antique Salon.

Among the world's best jewelers, Gilbert Albert was the first jeweler after Fabergé to exhibit his collections in the Kremlin Museum. Albert presents a necklace and earring set made of tourmalines, 45 diamonds and gold.

Albert has worked closely with the Swiss watchmaker Patek Philippe, which also has a stand at the Manège. President Vladimir Putin sports a Patek Philippe watch, and other Swiss watchmakers such as Breguet and Rolex have a healthy presence at the fair, reflecting the popularity of such timepieces among Russia's elite. Russia's greatest poet, Alexander Pushkin, even mentioned a Breguet watch in his masterpiece "Yevgeny Onegin."

Other jewelers with works for sale include Graff diamonds and the British jeweler David Morris, who will display a 26-carat Burmese ruby and diamond drop earrings.

Interesting debut

One interesting Russian gallery that will make its debut is the Khankhalaev gallery, which is concentrating on contemporary artists from Buryatia, the Buddhist Siberian republic.

Of the Moscow fair, says Konstantin Khankhalaev, "It is the biggest fair and the one with the best quality in Russia." Khankhalaev's stand will feature works by a number of Buryat artists who have previously exhibited in New York and London. ■

Gallery focus | Emigré artists and more

Under the loupe: Finding art with a Russian background

One of the stands at the Moscow World Fine Art Fair that is likely to receive many visitors is the Maricevic Fine Art gallery. Passers-by can look at the paintings and watch a film about the works on display around them.

The gallery, which is a partner of Moscow's Tretyakov gallery, looks at the number of artists who were forced to leave Russia after the revolution or who ended up abroad for other reasons. Emigré artists such as Nikolai Fechin, Stepan Kolesnikov, Konstantin Korovin, Franz Roubaud and Alexey Isupoff are among those whose work is much sought after now.

The works of two of those artists, Fechin and Korovin, are expected to attract much attention during the 2007 fair.

Fechin was one of the most important pupils of the master of Russian realism, Ilya Repin. Ana Maricevic, a consultant at the family-run gallery, says that Fechin's departure from Russia after the revolution means he is not very well known in Russia, but well regarded in the West.

The artist's "Portrait of Alexandra" will make its debut in Russia at the fair. The striking portrait shows Fechin's then wife, Alexandra, in 1925.

Born in Kazan in the Tatar region of Russia, Fechin and his wife left Russia for the United States after the revolution. An obsessive artist married to a delicate and pampered wife made for a rocky match, and the couple divorced in 1933, not long after they arrived in North America.

"They were two very different people," says Maricevic.

Alexandra had been wife, friend and muse to Fechin, and he never parted with Alexandra's portrait during his lifetime.

With the painting, the gallery is attempting to bring some of Russia's artistic past back. Of the fair, Maricevic says: "It is doing its part to educate the Russian public."

The gallery specializes in finding art with a Russian background. This often includes works that were once hung in the Hermitage or other major Russian museums and were later taken or sold abroad. A number of artworks in museums such as the Hermitage

were sold for foreign currency in Soviet Union times.

"This is something that Russians appreciate," says Maricevic. "They can say that it belonged to Catherine the Great and now it is over my sofa."

The gallery sees itself as part of the revival of Russian private collections. Russia had a long history of private collections before the Soviet Union period. Catherine the Great's voracious appetite for art — which eventually spawned the Hermitage museum — played a large role in inspiring private collections.

To complement the exhibition, the gallery commissioned the respected Russian director Boris Karadzev to make a short documentary film about the émigré artists. New footage has been re-

vealed in the archives for the film, which will be shown throughout the fair at the Maricevic stand.

Another émigré artist on show at the gallery is Konstantin Korovin, the founder of the Russian Impressionist movement.

Valentin Serov, the famous 19th-century Russian painter known for his portraits, says of Korovin's paintings: "He knows no measure, as he gives rise to a stunning whirlwind of colors."

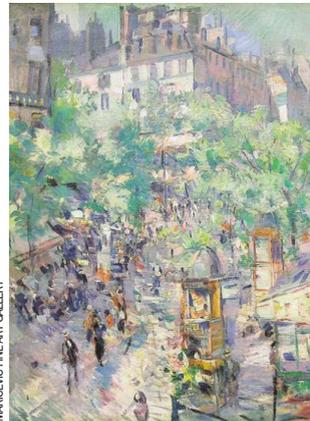
The gallery will show one of Korovin's famous Parisian paintings, "The Sebastopol Boulevard."

The paintings of Paris were made in the 1910s and show a vivid view of a city full of life. When he visited Paris for the first time, Korovin wrote in his diary: "Paris ... Night ... I cannot sleep. A swarm of images and visions appear to me ... I am awestruck by the first impressions of Paris."

Korovin eventually moved to Paris for his son's health, and died there in 1939. ■



Nikolai Fechin's "Portrait of Alexandra" will make its debut in Russia at the fair.



The Maricevic gallery presents "The Sebastopol Boulevard" by Konstantin Korovin.

Moscow World Fine Art Fair did not involve the reporting or editorial departments of the IHT. Text by KEVIN O'FLYNN.

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Fair facts

- Location: Manège (also called Manezh), 1 Manège Square. Metro: Okhotny Ryad, Alexandrovsky Sad.
- Hours: May 29 to June 4 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- VIP events: May 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., May 29 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., May 30 VIP Night Owls from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and June 1 to June 4 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- No. of exhibitors: 80 +
- No. of visitors expected: 45,000
- Web site: www.moscow-faf.com
- Organizers: Art Culture Studio, Geneva
- Specialties: Old Master, Impressionist and modern paintings as well as furniture, drawings, jewelry, tapestries and carpets.

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Raoul DUFY - *La Place d'Hyères 1927*
129 x 161 cm - 49 3/5 x 63 1/5 inches

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