

ANNUAL EXHIBITION
ENGLISH

SAINTS, QUEENS AND WORKERS

IMAGES OF WOMEN IN RUSSIAN ART

FEBRUARY 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

The lives and personalities of women are one of the most important components of Russian culture. In novels by Alexander Pushkin, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and other writers and poets of the 19th and 20th centuries, it is often the case that issues of concern to society were approached through female characters. And the visual arts in Russia fed off the same inspiration as literature.

COLLECTION OF THE RUSSIAN MUSEUM

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OPENING TIMES

From 9.30 to 20.00

Closing days: Every Monday, January 1st and December 25th

Last admission is 30 minutes before closing time

Please check our website for restricted schedule during the annual exhibitions renewal interval

PRICES

- Combined ticket (Collection and Temporary): €8,00 (general ticket) €4,00 € (reduced)
- Collection: €6,00 (general ticket) €3,50 (reduced)
- Temporary exhibition: €4,00 (general ticket) €2,50 (reduced)

REDUCED FEE / FREE ENTRANCE

Visit our website for information on reduced prices or free entrance

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

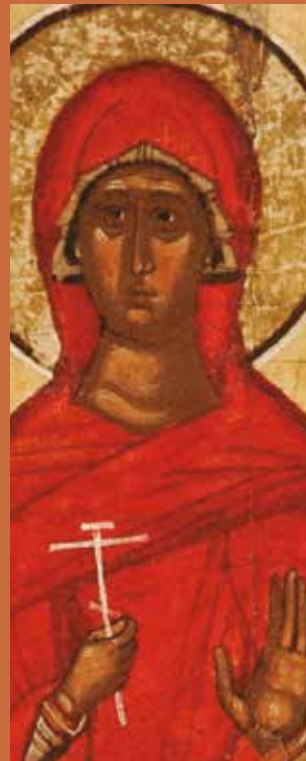
- Metro: Princesa-Huelin
- Bus: lines 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 15, 7, 22, 27, 31, 40, 91
- Promenade train: departure from «Muelle Uno»
- Tourist bus: Line 2



Selected Saints. St Demétrios, St Paraskeva and St Anastasia. Late 15th - early 16th centuries. Novgorod Province. Tempera on wood. 103 x 83 x 4 cm


Mikhail Shibanov, Portrait of Catherine II in Travelling Costume. 1787
Oil on canvas. 70.5 x 56 cm

Nikolai Ionin, Woman in Red. 1925. Oil on canvas. 141 x 54 cm
State Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg, VEGAP, Málaga, 2019



Until the late 17th century, all culture in Russia was in one way or another connected to church ideology. Images of the Mother of God and female saints filled the churches and the homes of elite, peasants, and urban dwellers alike. The Mother of God, who was honoured as much as Christ, was considered the patron of Rus, protecting her from troubles. This explains the abundance of and variation in Russian icons dedicated to the Theotokos.

The changes that occurred in Russia under Peter I (1672-1725) affected the lives of people in all levels of society, but they had a huge impact on the status of women specifically. After the death of Peter I (1725), the Russian throne was occupied by women for the better part of a century. Empresses Catherine I, Anna Ioannovna, Elizabeth Petrovna, and Catherine II ruled the land, and while not all of them were of Russian descent, all loved Russia and served her loyally. The ceremonial portraits of these empresses and of the wives of the subsequent emperors proudly showcased the faces of the women of Russia and decorated palaces and official establishments.


Ayuntamiento
de Málaga

AGENCIA PÚBLICA PARA LA GESTIÓN
DE LA CASA NATAL DE PABLO RUIZ PICASSO
Y OTROS EQUIPAMIENTOS
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The Europeanization of Russian culture occurred in large part in parallel with the emancipation of women. The role of artists in this process was not insignificant. In paintings on the theme of the societal status of women of various backgrounds (peasants, noblewomen, merchants' wives, workers, members of the intelligentsia...) they laid the groundwork for women's liberation from all types of social stigmatization. Particularly striking in both the visual arts and literature of the second half of the 19th century were depictions of forced and loveless marriages, the difficult lives of widows who had lost breadwinners, and women compelled to perform backbreaking work.

Women's lack of the right to obtain a professional education and the extent and nature of their participation in society were also issues of great concern in Russian society of the 19th and early 20th century. Women in Russia insistently strove to have their talents recognized. But prior to the early 20th century, these efforts were always met with barriers. Sofia Kovalevskaya (1850-1891), a distinguished mathematician, received her education in Germany and attained the title of professor not in her homeland of Russia, but in Sweden. Artist and writer Marie Bashkirtseff (1858-1884) gained fame in France during her lifetime, but only became known to her fellow countrymen several years after her death.

It seems that only radical revolutionaries, such as Sophia Perovskaya (1853-1881) or Vera Figner (1853-1942), integral in the assassination of Emperor Alexander II, were able to obtain fame in their home country as women thanks to their high-profile trials. But their violent terrorism was not condemned by everyone. Society needed a social transformation, and women played a huge role in preparing it.

An entire cast of educated, intelligent, and independent women began enthusiastically mastering various types of traditionally male activities at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, gradually changing their destiny and the face of Russia. After the 1917 revolution, women acquired rights equal to those of men in the sphere of education, choice of profession, wages, and participation in social life, which was immediately reflected in various expressions of culture, the visual arts among them.

As of the end of the 1910s in Russia, woman in the Soviet Union was no longer simply a mother. She was worker, head of a collective farm or factory, actress, stage and screen director, camera operator, academic, teacher, writer, artist...



IVAN MAKAROV
Portrait of Empress Marie Alexandrovna
1866. Winterhalter style. Oil on canvas. 267 x 204 cm
State Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg



ALEXANDER SHEVCHENKO,
Portrait of a Woman in a Red Dress
1913. Oil on canvas. 100 x 106 cm
State Russian Museum, Saint Petersburg

In pre-revolutionary Russia, 310 noblewomen (grand duchesses and representatives of high society) were awarded the Order of St Catherine.

95 Women, including those who fought in World War II, received the honour of being named a Hero of the Soviet Union (beginning in 1942).

17 Women have been named Hero of Russia (beginning in 1992).

The title of Mother Heroine was awarded (beginning in 1944) to 18 women who bore and raised 10 or more children.

In 2018, there were 25 women in Russia holding the position of director of an art museum.
