'Tradition in Transition'

- Russian icon exhibit opens June 20 at Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

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**Iconic exhibit coming to Fred Jones Jr. museum June 20**

By Julianna Parker  
Transcript Staff Writer

Cultures clash as an isolated country begins to open up the West. Age-old religious traditions morph as they respond to the ideas and ideology of a new era.

Situations like this are happening all over the world, but a new exhibit at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art looks at this change in another time — Russia in the 17th through 19th centuries.

"Tradition in Transition: Russian Icons in the Age of the Romanovs" is an exhibition of 45 rare icons and oldads (decorative icon covers) from the collection of Hillwood Museum and Gardens.

Tradition in Transition will be on view June 21 through Aug. 31. A public opening reception will be 7 to 9 p.m., June 20.

"The Russian Icons collection will be the third simultaneous temporary (and traveling) exhibition during the 2008 spring semester," Ghislain d'Humieres, director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, said in an e-mail. "In order to provide diverse exhibitions to the university and the community, we at times use some of our permanent collection space. The Russian Icon will be shown in the Ellen and Richard L. Sandor Family gallery, while part of the permanent photography collection will stay on display."

"Russia had been virtually isolated for 700 years when Peter the Great commanded the construction of the new capital of Russia, St. Petersburg. The symbolic action opened the "window on the West," resulting in an influx of ideas, styles, fashions and ideologies, altering the fabric of Russian society and influencing the sole artistic expression, the religious icon."

"Part of the purpose of the exhibit is to show how these religious icons, how the style changed while the politics and society was changing," said Amanda Cane, senior exhibitions manager at International Arts and Artists, the nonprofit that organized the exhibit's tour in the U.S.

The Russian people at this time kept their main religious iconography, but adapted it to the things around them, she said. For example, the icons start out very plain in this period. Over time, tastes changed. Some of the basic icons are overlaid with ornate covers covered with gold and jewels. But the covers, or oldads, have cutouts to show the plainer icons, Cane said.

Icons from this period — vestiges of the Romanov dynasty — were traditionally viewed as inferior to those produced during the medieval period, or "Golden Age."

This exhibition challenges the popular scholastic view that the icon degenerated during the Romanov period. Instead, the variety of conflicting styles and ideas revealed in these "late icons" render them equally worthy of critical recognition, Cane said.

For those unfamiliar with Russian art, text on the exhibit at the Fred Jones will describe what visitors are seeing.

"Everything will be explained once they get there," Cane said.

The exhibition draws from the collection of Marjorie Merriweather Post and her husband, Joseph Davies, who served as U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1937-38. The collection was further enriched with a bequest from Madame Frances Rosso, the American-born wife of Augusto Rosso, the Italian ambassador in Moscow from 1936 to 1940. In 2002, Hillwood acquired on-term loan the collection of icons formerly belonging to Laurence A. Steinhardt, U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1939-41, courtesy of the Laurence A. Steinhardt-Sherlock Trust, a Washington, D.C. foundation.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is at 555 Elm Ave. Admission is free to OU students with a current student ID and museum association members, $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children 6 to 17 years of age, $2 for OU faculty and staff and free for children 5 and under. Admission is free on Tuesdays.

For information and accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-4938.

**Dreamer 12 Art Opening 'Tunes & Technicolor' June 27**

- ‘The Technicolor Army’ fashion show July 18

By Amber Clour  
special to the Oklahoman

Dreamer Concepts Studio and Foundation (DCSF), at 324 E. Main St., is hosting an opening reception for "Dreamer 12: Tunes & Technicolor" Friday, June 27. The exhibit will be open to the public from 7-10 p.m. opening with a private viewing for members at 6 p.m.

The exhibit will run until Saturday, July 19.

Dreamer 12 features works by Jamie McCarty, fashion designer, Lindsey Rife, mixed media artist, and guest photographer, J. Michelle Martin-Coyne.

The theme of this exhibit, "Tunes & Technicolor," is comprised of various works of art inspired by musicians including Loreta Lynn, David Bowie, various punk and ska bands, and Oklahoman own T'Paine, Lisa and The Starlight Minis. This exhibit will include books, prints, clothing, handbags, jewelry, photographs, and drawings.

Jamie McCarty graduated from Norman High School in 2006. She lives between Norman and New York City where she attends Parsons, The New School for Design. She is focusing her studies on fashion design and is expected to graduate in 2010.

Lindsey Rife is a 2007 Norman High School graduate. She just completed her first year at the Kansas City Art Institute where she will be studying graphic design as a sophomore. Lindsey's pieces for this exhibit include screen prints, handmade books and drawings.

J. Michelle Martin-Coyne has a bachelor's degree in painting from the University of Oklahoma. Her photography documents the everyday lives of a rock band. One of her featured pieces in Dreamer 12 is the gatefold for an album cover.

"Jamie McCarty and the Technicolor Army" will take place Friday, July 18th at 8 p.m. The roots of the fashion show began years ago while on a trip to Las Vegas where Jamie encountered a going-out-of-business thrift store. There she purchased 13 uniforms of the same style; altogether the uniforms cost her 10 cents. After sitting in her closet more than four years they are coming to life in Jamie McCarty and the Technicolor Army. The theme of the fashion show evolved from a digital project given to her at Parsons where she was inspired by the Flaming Lips’ "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots.

The collection showcases Jamie’s version of Yoshimi and her army as they battle their way through psychedelic outer space.

DCSF’s mission is to encourage, promote and provide opportunities for growth for new artists in the community. For more information or questions concerning this event, call DCSF at 701-0048 or visit the Web site www.dreamerconcepts.org.