

NEWS RELEASE

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FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN
CONTACT MICHAEL BENDURE, Public Relations Officer, 405-325-3178, mbendure@ou.edu
FAX: 405-325-7696
www.ou.edu/fjjma

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Historian Explores Russian Palaces, Architecture Sept. 11-12 at OU's Art Museum

NORMAN, OKLA. – Few Oklahomans will ever set foot in Russian imperial palaces, but international art historian Emmanuel Ducamp offers the next best thing when he explores 18th- and 19th-century Russian palaces and architecture Thursday and Friday, Sept. 11 and 12, at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma.

From 4 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 11 and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 in the museum's Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium, Ducamp will discuss the post World War II restoration of the winter palace in St. Petersburg and the summer imperial palaces of Peter the Great and Catherine II.

Both lectures are free and open to the public.

"The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is delighted to welcome such an international speaker to the museum," said FJJMA director Ghislain d'Humières. "Mr. Ducamp has been speaking in many prominent museums across Europe and the United States. We are very excited to bring him to the University of Oklahoma and the Norman community."

Ducamp, a graduate in business law, private law and art history from Paris University, has been studying Russia and its culture for more than 20 years. Particularly interested in the Russian architecture, interior décor and decorative arts of the 18th and 19th centuries, he has edited and published numerous works on the imperial palaces in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

In recent years, Ducamp has lectured in such prestigious institutions as the Musee du Louvre and the Musee d'Orsay in Paris, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the John-Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and more. Ducamp is vice president of the Paris-Saint-Petersburg Association, which works to strengthen the cultural links between France and Russia.

On Thursday at 4 p.m., Ducamp's first lecture looks at how Peter the Great was eager to liberate his country from its medieval roots and transform Russia into a modern power. After St. Petersburg's creation - a window into Europe - and its designation as the new capital city of the Russian Empire, Russian art in general and Russian decorative arts in particular began looking at their West-European counterparts, soon to blend these various influences into a distinctive Russian style, both imaginative and luxurious.

By exploring different techniques (furniture, porcelain, silver, glass), the lecture will illustrate the evolution of this Russian style from the mid-18th to the mid-19th century, often showing the works of art in their imperial surroundings, as recorded in the numerous watercolor views commissioned by successive Russian tsars.

For his second lecture on Friday at 6:30 p.m., Ducamp uncovers thorough restoration of the Russian tsars' summer palaces in St. Petersburg over the past 50 years, and how their restoration has made them into some of the most spectacular sights in Europe.

Ducamp was able to record the latest restorations and reconstructions carried out in Peterhof, Oranienbaum, Tsarskoie Selo, Pavlovsk and Gatchina with photographer Marc Walter. This lecture will take the form of a promenade through these impressive residences, once the backdrop of the ever eventful court and family life of the Romanovs.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art presents the lectures as part of this fall's continuing Russian program, which culminates with the international exhibition *American Artists from the Russian Empire*, opening at 6 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Nancy Johnston Records Gallery.

Ducamp's first lecture is presented as part of the President's Dream Course initiative at the museum, a program enabling OU faculty to invite experts of international stature to visit the Norman campus and interact with students. His second lecture is co-hosted by FJJMA and the Alliance Française from Oklahoma City.

Admission to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is free to all OU students with a current student ID and all museum association members, \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children 6 to 17 years of age, \$2 for OU faculty/staff, and free for children 5 and under. Admission is free on Tuesdays. The museum's Web site is www.ou.edu/fjjma. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.

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