

NEWS RELEASE

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FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego Art Museum Director, Russian Curator Highlight FJJMA Opening Oct. 4

NORMAN – The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma premieres an international exhibition with special guests at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. Derrick Cartwright, executive director of the San Diego Museum of Art, and Dr. Evgenia Petrova, deputy director of science at the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg, are scheduled to speak during the free, public opening of *American Artists from the Russian Empire*.

“We are delighted that Mr. Cartwright and Dr. Petrova are joining us for this special opening,” said Ghislain d’Humières, director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “Their presence at this world-class premiere only enhances the international relevance of this exciting exhibition. The University and the state of Oklahoma are privileged to welcome them and all our international guests.”

With a broad selection of works on loan from museums, galleries and private collections, *American Artists from the Russian Empire* will examine the impact of American culture and art movements on Russian artists living in the United States and will highlight the influence and contributions of Russian artists in shaping American culture.

Following its Oklahoma debut, *American Artists from the Russian Empire* will travel to the State Russian Museum in St. Petersburg and the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow before returning to the United States for a final show at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Derrick Cartwright’s lecture, titled, “American Born Russian,” is scheduled from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium, located downstairs in the museum. Seating is limited.

Cartwright will speak and moderate an open discussion exploring the ways in which American art historians have treated the Russian émigré artists. Using a variety of examples from James McNeill Whistler to Mark Rothko, to Komar and Melamid, Cartwright will argue that strict narratives of American art have relied on a variety of tropes and techniques for discussing the lingering impact of Russian experience in painting and sculptures from the 1890s to the 1990s.

Over the past four years at the San Diego Museum of Art, Cartwright has initiated numerous new programs at the museum; enhanced bilingual outreach within the institution; and collaborated with many local museums, universities and international partners in Mexico, France, India, Japan and China.

Following Saturday's lecture, Evgenia Petrova will lead an open discussion and walkthrough of the new exhibition. A Russian citizen, Petrova has published more than 150 publications on the topics of Russian art history from the 19th and 20th centuries. She serves as curator for the *American Artists from the Russian Empire* exhibition.

A free opening reception for Museum Association members and the public is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the Sandy Bell Gallery. The exhibition will be on display in the Nancy Johnston Records Gallery. Both galleries are located in the museum's downstairs exhibition spaces.

American Artists from the Russian Empire is jointly organized by the State Russian Museum and the Foundation for International Arts and Education. Additional information about the exhibition and the museum is available online at www.ou.edu/fjjma.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus.

Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.