

## The First Russian Art Exhibition (Berlin/online, 15–16 Oct 21)

Berlin and online, Oct 15–16, 2021

Registration deadline: Oct 10, 2021

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### 100 Years of German-Russian Cultural Exchange: The First Russian Art Exhibition

The First Russian Art Exhibition (Erste Russische Kunstausstellung), which opened in the Galerie van Diemen in Berlin on October 15, 1922, caused a remarkable stir in the Western art world. With Russia having been isolated from the West for almost a decade due to the First World War, the exhibition offered a unique opportunity for a broad Western audience to view first-hand the most recent artistic developments in Russia. The comprehensive exhibition, consisting of at least 237 paintings, more than 500 graphic works, sculptures, stage designs, architectural models, and works of porcelain, had a remarkably broad range that combined rather traditional paintings in a figurative manner by artists such as Abram Arkhipov, Konstantin Korovin, and Boris Kustodiev with the latest creations of the Russian avant-garde, including Cubo-futurist paintings by Nadezhda Udaltsova and Alexandra Exter, Suprematist works by Kazimir Malevich and El Lissitzky, and constructions by Vladimir Tatlin, Naum Gabo, Alexander Rodchenko, and Konstantin Medunetsky.

In view of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the historical exhibition in 2022, Jacobs University Bremen in cooperation with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin is holding an international conference. The two-day event will present new research on the First Russian Art Exhibition, moving away from the narrow focus on the show's avant-garde art display and examining instead its broader historical scope and art historical implications. Particular emphasis will be on the intentions of the Soviet state, the expectations of German leftist artists and intellectuals, the goals and organization of the exhibition, the role and participation of individual artists in the show, among them Naum Gabo, El Lissitzky, and David Shterenberg, as well as the reception of the exhibition within artistic and architectural circles in Germany, Central- and Eastern Europe, and Japan in the 1920s, and the whereabouts of the works exhibited.

#### PLEASE NOTE

The conference language is English. The conference is planned as a hybrid event; papers will be presented at the Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Saal of the Staatsbibliothek Berlin, Potsdamer Platz, or via Zoom, and all will be accessible via Zoom (UTC + 2 hours (Berlin time)). There is the option for a limited number of participants to join the event at the Staatsbibliothek. SARS-CoV-2 infection protection measures are in place for on-site participation. Attendance is free of charge for both options. Registration – either for participation on site or via Zoom – until October 10, 2021, is mandatory.

For registration for in-person participation, please send an e-mail to [erk99@russian-art.net](mailto:erk99@russian-art.net)  
To participate remotely, please use our Zoom-Online-Form at  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclfu-vrj8oHdyRdqFd0cQ\\_AbWG6pTNhKSo](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclfu-vrj8oHdyRdqFd0cQ_AbWG6pTNhKSo)

PROGRAM (UTC + 2 hours (Berlin time))

October 15, 2021

9:00 Registration

9:30 Opening Address

Isabel Wünsche, Jacobs University Bremen

The Promotion and Reception of Russian Art in Weimar Germany

Session 1: German-Russian Cultural Relations after the First World War

Moderation: Isabel Wünsche

10:00 Kaspar Braskén, Åbo Akademi University, Turku

"A Moral Victory for Soviet Russia": International Communism and Cultural Diplomacy in the Context of the First Russian Art Exhibition

10:30 Éva Forgács, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena

The First Russian Art Exhibition as Response to Crises: Famine in Russia and the Political Left in Germany

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Ewa Bérard, National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS-ENS), Paris

An Exhibition in an Armored Train

12:00 Miriam Leimer, University of Hamburg

Showcasing Bolshevik Russia at a Private Gallery in Berlin

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

Session 2: The Organizers of the First Russian Art Exhibition

Moderation: Miriam Leimer

14:00 Christina Lodder, University of Kent (online)

Naum Gabo as Curator

14:30 Christiane Post, Bergische Universität Wuppertal

The Role of David Shterenberg and Natan Altman in the First Russian Art Exhibition

15:00 Anna Ostrovskaya, independent researcher

The Role of Peter Alma in the Amsterdam Venue of the First Russian Art Exhibition

15:30 Willem Jan Renders, independent researcher

El Lissitzky and the First Russian Art Exhibition

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30-18:00 Irina Hiebert Grun and Kyllikki Zacharias, Nationalgalerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin  
The First Russian Art Exhibition and the Collection of the Neue Nationalgalerie Berlin  
[includes a visit to the Neue Nationalgalerie, for on-site participants only]

Evening Lecture

Moderation: Kyllikki Zacharias

18:30 Natalia B. Avtonomova, State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (online)  
The Reconstruction of the Graphics and Sculptural Sections at the First Russian Art

October 16, 2021

9:00 Registration

Session 3: The Reception of the Exhibition

Moderation: Willem Jan Renders

9:30 Maria Mileeva, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London  
Reactions to the First Russian Art Exhibition in the Weimar Republic

10:00 Merse Pál Szeredi, Lajos Kassák Museum, Budapest  
Lajos Kassák and the "Russian Material" – A Microhistory of Russian Constructivism in Vienna, 1920–1924

10:30 Linda Boersma, Utrecht University  
The Dutch Reception of the First Russian Art Exhibition

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Sergei Fofanov, State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow  
The Reception of the First Russian Art Exhibition in Russia and the First General German Art Exhibition of 1924

12:00 Toshiharu Omuka, University of Tsukuba (online)  
The Impact of Russian Art in early 1920s Japan: Conscious Constructionism and the Mavo Movement

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

Session 4: The Works in the First Russian Exhibition and their Whereabouts

Moderation: Miriam Leimer

14:00 Liubov Pchelkina and Irina Kochergina, State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow (online)  
Art Works from the Collection of the Moscow Museum of Painterly Culture in the First Russian Art Exhibition

14:30 Irina Karasik, State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg (online)  
The Participation of the Petrograd Museum of Artistic Culture in the First Russian Art Exhibition

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Dilyara Sadykova, Krasnodar Regional Art Museum F.A. Kovalenko (online)

Art Works from the First Russian Art Exhibition in the Collection of the Krasnodar Regional Art Museum F.A. Kovalenko

16:00 Iryna Makedon, independent researcher, Kiev

Art Works from the First Russian Art Exhibition in Ukrainian State Museums

16:30 Naila Rahimova, Azerbaijan National Museum of Art, Baku (online)

The Russian Avant-garde in the Collection of the Azerbaijan National Museum of Art

Concluding Lecture

Moderation: Isabel Wünsche

17:00 Ilia Doronchenkov, State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (online)

The Idea and Concept of an International Art

Reference:

CONF: The First Russian Art Exhibition (Berlin/online, 15-16 Oct 21). In: ArtHist.net, Sep 30, 2021 (accessed May 25, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/34941>>.