THE GLORY OF UKRAINE
An Unprecedented Display of Ukrainian Spiritual and National Treasures in the U.S.

The Glory of Ukraine — Exhibition Overview

(Omaha, NE) – Comprising two distinct and rarely seen collections, The Glory of Ukraine is a two-part exhibition that forms an unprecedented celebration of the spiritual and national treasures of this large Eastern European nation. Icons and other religious objects from the famous churches, cathedrals, bell towers, and underground caverns of the nearly 1,000-year-old Monastery of the Caves join artifacts of ancient civilizations from the private PlaTar collection for a visually rich and historically intriguing presentation. The Glory of Ukraine is on view at Joslyn Art Museum February 12 through May 8.

In cooperation with the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) and with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States and the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, The Glory of Ukraine is presented by the Foundation for International Arts & Education (FIAE) (Bethesda, Maryland). Exhibition organizers are FIAE, the Kyiv-Pechersk National Historical and Cultural Preserve (the museum in the Monastery of the Caves), and the Museum of National Cultural Heritage PlaTar. A small selection of works also comes from the Lviv National Museum Named for Andrei Sheptitsky. In Omaha, major sponsors of the exhibition are Suzanne and Walter Scott, Gail and Michael Yanney, Douglas County, Energy Systems, Mutual of Omaha, Robert H. Storz Foundation, and Valmont. Contributing sponsors are the Adah and Leon Millard Foundation and Lincoln Financial Foundation. Supporting sponsors are Audi and Fran and Rich Juro. Additional support is provided by the Nebraska Arts Council. The exhibition is slated for viewing in five U.S. cities — New York, NY; Washington, DC; Omaha, NE; Minneapolis, MN; and Houston, TX. The icons from the Monastery of the Caves — “Sacred Images from the 11th to the 19th Centuries” — debuted at the Museum of Biblical Art (New York) and were on view in fall 2010 at Meridian International Center (Washington, DC) before concluding their tour at Joslyn. The artifacts from the PlaTar Collection

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— “Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations” — will premier at Joslyn (34 objects were included in the Meridian International Center display last fall, providing a preview of the show to come in Omaha). The PlaTar pieces will travel from Omaha to the Houston Museum of Natural Science followed by The Museum of Russian Art (Minneapolis, MN). Joslyn is the only U.S. museum to display both components of The Glory of Ukraine exhibition in their entirety. The Ukrainian icons can be enjoyed for their religious and cultural symbolism as well as for their amazing artistry. The artifacts are fascinating and beautiful examples of ancient European pottery and metalwork from civilizations as old as 5,000 BC.

More About the Two Collections Featured in the Exhibition

Part I: Sacred Images from the 11th to the 19th Centuries — The Icons from the Monastery of the Caves

Most commonly a flat panel painting, an icon is a religious image used for devotion and often believed to possess miracle-working abilities. Deriving from Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Catholicism, icons depict holy beings or objects such as Jesus, Mary, saints, angels, or the cross. The exhibition presents more than 80 objects, which, in addition to some of the finest icons from the extensive holdings of the Monastery of the Caves, include some truly exceptional liturgical objects: chalices, ceremonial and altar crosses, silver gospel covers, and textiles displaying masterful needlework and embroidery.

During much of its early history, Ukraine’s borders were open to the East and the West. Byzantine Orthodox and Catholic traditions mixed with the Renaissance and Baroque styles. Over the centuries, Ukrainian iconography was influenced by Russian, Greek, and Roman cultures. Many icons had folklore and legends as their basis and were enhanced with floral designs and the use of brilliant, rich blues, reds, and golds, making Ukrainian icons truly unique.

Exhibition highlights include:

- **Mother of God Hodigitria**, 1370 — One of the oldest existing Ukrainian icons.
- **Congregation of All Saints of Pechersk Lavra**, late 18th/early 19th centuries — Portraying 118 saints of the Monastery of the Caves, where their remains are still kept, upon their official canonization.
- **Cross of the Holy Monk Mark of the Caves**, 11th century — A rare pectoral reliquary cross (a hinged cross, suspended from the neck by a cord or chain, which opens to reveal a religious relic) that belonged to one of the early monks of the Monastery, Mark, who was responsible for burials in the caves.
- **Royal Doors**, 16th century — Royal Doors, also known as Holy Doors, are the central gates of the iconostasis in an Orthodox church leading to the altar. On this pair, among the earliest known sets, only the Evangelists are seen, which is unique in Ukrainian iconography.

About the Monastery of the Caves

The Monastery of the Caves, the oldest Orthodox Monastery in all of Eastern Europe, fuses nature with man-made structures created over nine centuries. The 57-acre site includes buildings, churches, and residential structures, as
The Glory of Ukraine at Joslyn Art Museum

well as two unique cave complexes with underground labyrinths over 656 yards long. Created in 1051, the monastery, in Ukrainian, is called Kyiv-Pechersk — Kyiv for the location (Kiev) and Pechersk for the Ukrainian word for caves: pechery. The Monastery of the Caves is often referred to with the term "Lavra." Lavra is the highest honor given to monasteries, and the Monastery of the Caves received that designation in 1159.

Part II: Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations — Artifacts and the PlaTar Collection

The artifacts in this section of the exhibition are from the PlaTar Collection (the private collection of Nikolai Platonov and Sergei Taruta) of thousands of objects from ancient civilizations that populated modern-day Ukraine. Among them are weapons, flint and copper tools, ritual objects, earthenware, and gold and silver jewelry. Of particular significance are a number of objects that date to the Trypilian culture.

Considered the greatest city of "Old Europe," Trypillia was the center of Neolithic pre-civilization, boasting some 15,000 inhabitants as early as 5,000 BC, and pre-dated the rise of the Romans, Chinese, Greeks, and Egyptians. The Trypillians' large, urbanized communities flourished with technological, ideological, religious, and political structures. They developed techniques of metalworking and pottery making, as well as applied and decorative arts that precede all known markers of the development of civilization.

Other cultures represented in the exhibition include the ancient horse-riding, nomadic groups—the Cimmerians of Indo-European and the Scythians of Iranian origin (known for their gold objects), Sarmatians (an Iranian people flourishing from the 5th century BC to the 4th century AD), Greeks, Celts, Goths, Huns, and the Khazar (a semi-nomadic Turkic people). The splendid array of objects includes stone, flint, and copper tools and weapons; pottery and other ceramic materials; bronze sculpture; extraordinary transparent glass, bronze, and silver vessels; an exquisite silver headdress and gold jewelry, including pendants, rings, bracelets, and necklaces with precious stones; and objects of Christian worship that include relics, a gold chalice, and crosses.

Joslyn plans a members-only event and public events and programs in celebration of The Glory of Ukraine.

Friday, February 11 • 5:30–8 pm • Members Preview

This drop-in event exclusively for Joslyn members includes light hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar (Joslyn’s Café Durham will also be open). At 6 pm, Joslyn Executive Director & CEO Jack Becker, Ph.D., will provide an
introduction to the exhibition. At 7:15 pm, the St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church Choir will give a vocal performance in the spirit of the artworks on view. Invitations will be mailed; reservations are required.

To join Joslyn, visit www.joslyn.org or call (402) 661-3858.

Sunday, March 20 • 2 pm • Public Lecture — "Portals to Paradise: Decoding Iconography of the Christian East"
Presented by Joslyn Art Museum and Creighton University as part of the CU at Joslyn lecture series.
Admission: free for Museum members and Creighton students and faculty with ID; free with regular Museum admission for general public.

Traditional Byzantine and Eastern Orthodox iconography has fascinated the world for over a millennium and a half. These images of holy figures with stoically gaunt faces, serene yet penetrating almond-shaped eyes, elongated fingers often gesturing symbolically, all bathed in shimmering golden light seem odd and out of place compared with Western religious art since the Renaissance. In coordination with The Glory of Ukraine, Orthodox theologian Nicolae Roddy, Ph.D., explains the theology, use, and experiential understanding of icons from within the Eastern tradition, offering insight for decoding these unique treasures of artistic religious devotion.

Dr. Roddy is Associate Professor of Theology at Creighton University. He is co-director for the Consortium of the Bethsaida Excavations Project. Dr. Roddy earned his M.A. in theology from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He was a Fulbright Scholar to Romania during 1994–1995.

Sunday, March 27 • 1–4 pm • Family Fun Day
Admission is free for everyone during this afternoon of exhibition viewing and related activities and performances!

Select Sundays, February–March • 1–4 pm • Ancient Inspiration: Jewelry Workshops
Teens and adults will learn basic techniques and create one-of-a-kind jewelry in these one-day workshops. Each project draws inspiration from The Glory of Ukraine, featuring ancient adornments from lost civilizations.
Instructor: Darcy Horn • Joslyn Members: $40 per workshop; General Public: $45 per workshop • To register, call (402) 661-3839.

• Pendant Earrings
  Sunday, February 27, 1–4 pm
  Explore metal-shaping techniques to create textured pendants that you will rivet and wrap with wire to wear as earrings.

• Leather Wrap Bracelet with Stones
  Sunday, March 6, 1–4 pm
  Attach colorful stones to a leather wrap for a button-closure bracelet.

• Wire-Wrapped Jewelry
  Sunday, March 13, 1–4 pm
  Wrap and bend wire into a unique design to be worn as earrings or a decorative pendant.

• Bezel-Set Stone Necklace
  Sunday, March 20, 1–4 pm
  Create a bezel for a colorful stone, then attach your setting to a chain for a necklace.

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Other exhibition-related classes and workshops for teens and adults:

ICON PAINTING
Saturdays: March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9; 12:30–3:30 pm
Members: $135 • General Public: $152
Icon paintings in The Glory of Ukraine will inspire this class. Make paints by mixing natural pigments with egg whites and spend time studying the symbolism of Orthodox iconography before creating a composition on a traditional wooden panel. Instructor: Jane Tan Creti

PYSANKY: UKRAINIAN EASTER EGGS
Saturday: April 16; 1–4 pm
Members: $35 • General Public: $40
In the Ukrainian tradition of Pysanka, use wax to create an intricate design on an egg shell with a stylus. Drop the shell in dyes and watch a fantastic, multi colored design emerge! Instructors: Carey Hernandez & Therese Straseski

ICON WORKSHOP
May 5–10; 9:30 am to 4:30 pm daily
Fee dependent upon enrollment (approx. $650 per person). All materials provided. Registration deadline: March 15. Contact Jane Tan Creti at (402) 391-2448 or jantancred@msn.com
To provide deeper study of the eleventh- through nineteenth-century sacred images exhibited in The Glory of Ukraine, Joslyn will be the host site for an intensive icon-painting workshop conducted by Prosopon School of Iconology founder and master iconographer, Vladislav Andrejev, and facilitated by local School member Jane Tan Creti. Workshop participants will be introduced to iconology, the practical and theoretical aspects of the iconographic tradition, and the teaching of Christianity through the language of light, color, image, and symbol. Explanations of iconographic symbolism and the theological base of each step of the process will be presented parallel to technical instruction. Daily instruction and supervised work will result in a complete piece for each student. All materials are included: wood panels gessoed with natural ground, genuine gold leaf, egg tempera using ground pigments, and linseed oil finish.

PICTURED ARTWORKS: (PAGE 1) Congregation of All the Saints of Pechersk Lavra, Icon Painting Workshop of Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, Kyiv, late 18th-early 19th centuries, oil on wood, The National Kyiv-Pechersk Historical and Cultural Preserve; (PAGE 3, TOP TO BOTTOM) Large Painted Vessel, 2500–2900 BC, Ukraine, Cherkas’ka region, Trypillia CII, ceramic, PlaTar Collection; Temple Pendants, 1st-2nd centuries AD, gold and chalcedony, PlaTar Collection

For images, contact Amy Rummel, communications and marketing manager, at (402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org.

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Admission: adults $8; senior citizens (62+) and college students (with ID) $6; youth (ages 5-17) $5; free ages four and younger and Joslyn members. Free admission for the general public on Saturdays from 10 am to noon. Hours: Tues., Wed., Fri, Sat., 10 am–4 pm; Thurs., 10 am–8 pm; Sun., noon–4 pm; closed Mondays and major holidays.