



Rayons de soleil sur paysage de montagne. Zinaïda Serebriakova, 1914 © Musée Russe, Saint-Pétersbourg

SWITZERLAND BY THE RUSSIANS

**Artistic and historical perspectives
1814-2014**

17 DECEMBER 2014 - 22 MARCH 2015



La città dolente. Marianne von Werefkin, 1930 © Fondation Marianne von Werefkin, Musée Communal d'Art Moderne, Ascona

In collaboration with the Centre d'État des musées et des expositions ROSIZO and the Russian Ministry of Culture

The Bicentenary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Russia is presented through an exceptional selection of historical documents and works by Russian artists.

Two hundred years ago, tsarist Russia and the Swiss Confederation established diplomatic relations. Whether by their geography, culture, history or political regime, it seems the two countries were different in every way. With the Congress of Vienna looming and the impending changes it would bring, Switzerland was in need of an ally, both powerful and remote, which could protect it once and for all from its greedy neighbours. And Czar Alexander I, who had been educated by a Swiss private tutor, Frédéric-César de la Harpe, could see the advantages in preserving the independence and neutrality of Switzerland in this new Europe. Diplomatic relations between Russia and Switzerland evolved with the ebbs and flows of history, but the citizens of both countries kept nurturing an interest in each other's culture. Aristocrats, painters, poets and writers, anarchists and communists, students, religious and political refugees... many Russians sought asylum and found a new home in Switzerland over the years.

The exhibition at the Château de Penthes evidences the multiple ties that bind the two countries. These Russian perspectives on Switzerland are fascinating for two reasons: they show the cultural, social and political evolution of Russia throughout these centuries, and, like a specular image, the history of Switzerland and how it was perceived from abroad.

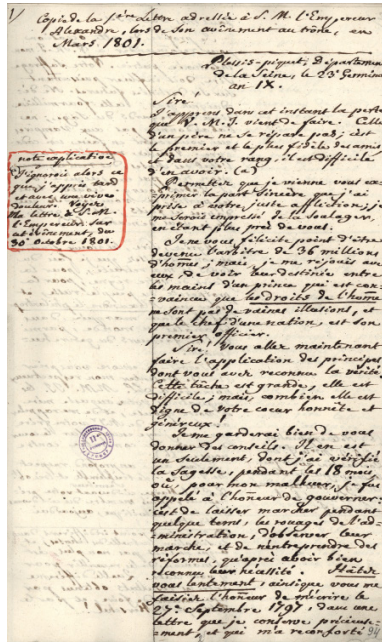
The Musée des Suisses dans le Monde is honored to be involved in the celebrations for the bicentenary of diplomatic relations between Switzerland and Russia. Historical documents present the strong and lasting diplomatic ties that exist between the two countries since 1814. A selection of over thirty paintings is exhibited alongside historical documents, etchings and photographs.

The artists showcased in the exhibition include Clodt von Jürgensburg, Olga Della Vos kardovskaya, Mikhaïl Erassi, Maxime Vorobiev, Alexandre Calame, Ivan Chichkine, Grigoriev, Feodoer Matveev, Gerhardt von Reutern, Marianne von Verefkin, Alexey von Jawlensky, Login Frikke and Zinaïda Serebriakova.

Switzerland by the Russians also shows the importance of Switzerland in the life and work of Russian artists, and conversely, the imprint these artists left on the country, such as Leo Tolstói, Alexey Jawlensky, Ilya Repin, Marianne von Verefkin, Feodor Matveev, Nikolay Dubovskoy, Gerhardt von Reutern...



Nature morte sur nappe colorée Alexey von Jawlensky, 1909 © Musée M.A. Vrubel, Omsk



Lettre de La Harpe à l'empereur Alexandre Ier à l'occasion de son accession au trône de Russie. Le 23 mars 1801. Archives de la politique extérieure de l'empire de Russie, Moscou



Les Jumeaux. Marianne von Verefkin, 1907 © Fondation Marianne von Verefkin, Musée Communal d'Art Moderne, Ascona

EXHIBITION PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg; Tretyakov State Gallery, Moscow; The Russian Museum, St Petersburg; Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow; State Historical Museum, Moscow; State Central Museum of Contemporary History, Moscow; State Literary Museum, Moscow; Kaluga Regional Art Museum; Omsk M.A. Vrubel Museum of Fine Arts; A. N. Radishev Saratov State Art Museum; Nizhny Novgorod State Art Museum; State Archive of the Russian Federation, Moscow; Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderne, Ascona.



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