

Russian Art



PRESENTATION

- Russian paintings reached the heights in the 14th – 15th centuries. It was the period of icon painting connected with the names of the greatest masters. During the reign of Peter the First, (17th-18th centuries), Russia opens herself to Occidental art and Russian painters adopted European ways of painting. Russian paintings are something like the sons of russian culture, transmitting every tradition and every side of russian folklore. Russia's got so many artists which are famous in the whole world and whose art is very spectacular in every type known in the variety of painting. Russian paintings are something to look forward to , when visiting a museum and to discover russian history for.
- As representatives of the French Lyceum of Moscow, we highly and officially recommend russian art, especially painters and their paintings.

RUSSIAN PAINTERS

- Levitan, Shishkin, and Aivazovsky, among many others, are names known to every well-educated person in Russia and abroad. These artists are Russia's pride. Today, too, there is no shortage of talented Russian artists. Their names are just not yet so widely known.
- Russian painters are very different from other countries' painters – they have their special way of drawing and another vision of reality and of what is art. And at the same time they are not a bit worse than world famous European artists. They are very original and recognizable in the whole industry of paintings.

FAMOUS RUSSIAN PAINTERS

- **Ilya Repin**: He was probably the best-known Realist painter from that region, and is famous for works such as Ivan the Terrible and his son Ivan, he also did many wonderful portraits of his contemporaries, such as Tolstoy.
- **Ivan Aivazovsky**: he is considered the best Russian (though he is of Armenian origin) seascape painter. He is not that popular outside of Russia like Kandinsky, but the international interest to his paintings is growing. Some of his works were auctioned for millions of dollars. He is like the Russian Turner as far as seascapes concerned - a somewhat rough comparison, but perhaps it will give you a better feeling for Aivazovsky's prominence.
- **Marc Chagall**: He's likely not the most well-known "inside" Russia, but likely most well-known outside. Marc Chagall was a Russian-born French artist whose work generally was based on emotional association rather than traditional pictorial fundamentals.
- **Levitan**: Isaac Ilyich Levitan was a famous Russian painter, a master of landscape painting and founder of the “mood landscape” genre.

FAMOUS RUSSIAN PAINTERS

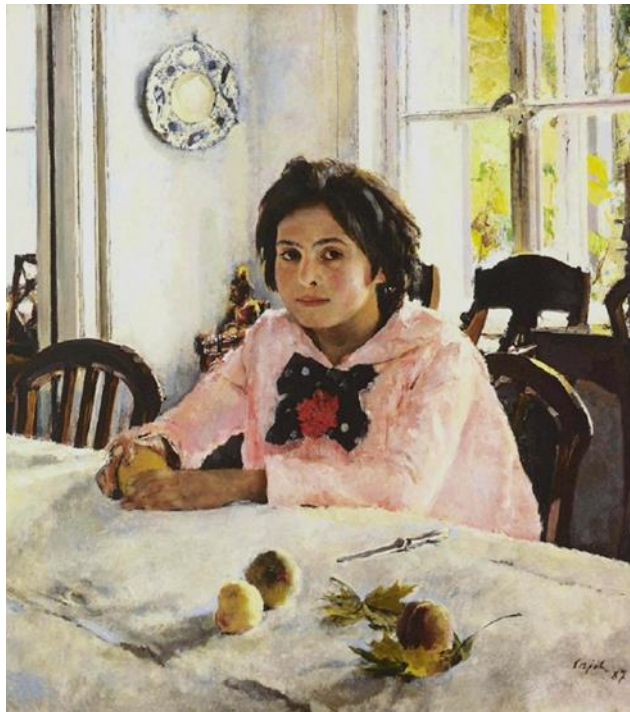
- **Kandinsky**: he gets credited with painting some of the first purely abstract works. Kandinsky's creation of abstract work followed a long period of development and maturation of intense thought based on his artistic experiences. He called this devotion to inner beauty, fervor of spirit, and spiritual desire inner necessity; it was a central aspect of his art.
- **Malevich**: Kazimir Malevich was the founder of the artistic and philosophical school of Suprematism, and his ideas about forms and meaning in art would eventually constitute the theoretical underpinnings of non-objective, or abstract, art. Malevich worked in a variety of styles, but his most important and famous works concentrated on the exploration of pure geometric forms (squares, triangles, and circles) and their relationships to each other and within the pictorial space. Because of his contacts in the West, Malevich was able to transmit his ideas about painting to his fellow artists in Europe and the United States.
- **Shishkin**: Shishkin's works were greeted as the defining images of Russia that promoted a new pride in the indigenous landscape. Before Shishkin no one had narrated the love of his native town and the soft beauty of the northern nature.

RUSSIAN PAINTINGS

- A distinctive and emblematic part of Russian culture, icons trace their roots back to the year 988 when the pagan Rus' were converted to Christianity until the 15th century.
- In the early 19th century, when neoclassicism and romanticism flourished, famous academic artists focused on mythological and Biblical themes.
- Realism came into dominance in the 19th century. The realists captured Russian identity in landscapes of wide rivers, forests, as well as vigorous genre scenes and robust portraits of their contemporaries. Other artists focused on social criticism, showing the conditions of the poor and caricaturing authority; critical realism flourished under the reign of Alexander II, with some artists making the circle of human suffering their main theme. Others focused on depicting dramatic moments in Russian history.
- By the turn of the 20th century and on, many Russian artists developed their own unique styles, neither realist - avant-garde.
- However, in the late Soviet era many artists combined innovation with socialist realism.
- They employed techniques as varied as primitivism, hyperrealism, grotesque and abstraction.
- Nowadays, Russia has also got many young talents whose art is becoming popular.

GIRL WITH PEACHES

Valentin Serov met and painted the portrait of Vera Mamontov, the twelve year old daughter of Savva Mamontov and it is that portrait entitled, Girl with Peaches. This painting launched Russian Impressionism. Serov exhibited this painting at the Academy of Fine Arts and it is now looked upon as one of his greatest works. The painting which hangs in the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow is a more relaxed study and is breathtakingly beautiful. Serov pieces together fragments of the interior scene and still-life. Serov uses warm tones for the girl which in some way contrasts with the colder tones of the space.



BLACK SQUARE

One of the most famous paintings in Russian art, Black Square marked the turning point of the Russian avant-garde movement. Malevich had created a series of non-objective paintings, of which Black Square is one. His invention of the word “suprematism” was meant to refer to the supremacy of the new geometric forms. The Black Square was the paramount of Malevich’s change to pure geometric abstraction: suprematism.



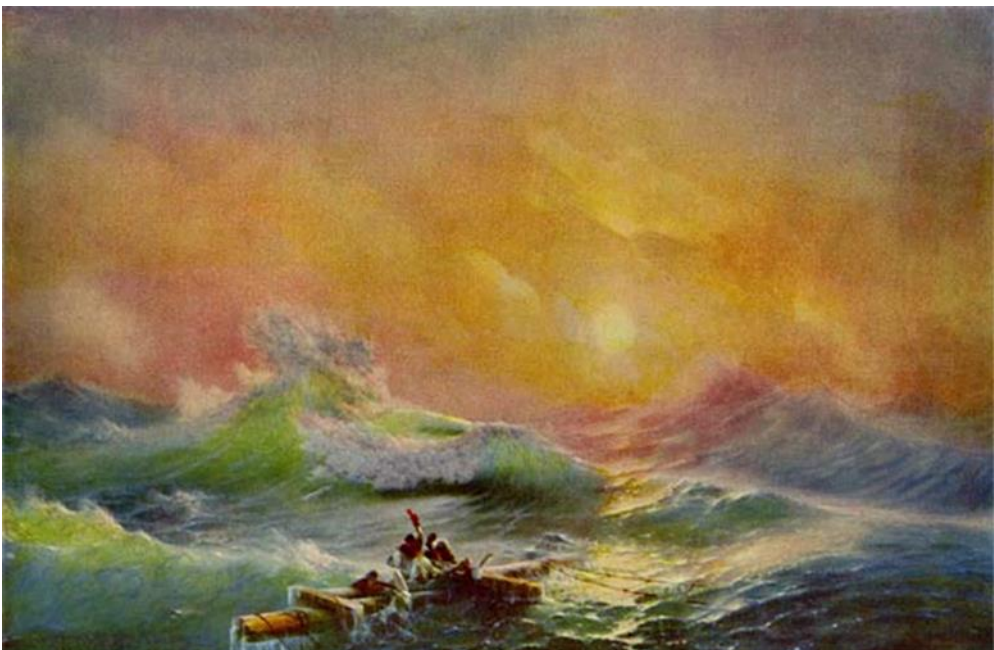
MORNING IN A PINE FOREST

The Morning in a Pine Forest is a painting by Russian artists Ivan Shishkin and Konstantin Savitsky. Savitsky has painted the bears, but the art collector Tretyakov effaced his signature, stating that “from idea until performance, everything discloses the creative method peculiar just to Shishkin“ so the painting is now credited solely to Shishkin. It is believed that Shishkin painted the pine trees near in Estonia, where he often liked to rest in summers.



THE NINTH WAVE

In the painting *The Ninth Wave* the master's talent showed fully for the first time. The painting shows a sea still rough after a night storm. The painting is composed of warm tones (the sea does not seem so menacing) and for this reason we are attracted by an illusory hope that the people will be saved. Thanks to Aivazovsky's talent, the colors and play of light, the sea looks natural and radiant...



THE TRETYAKOV GALLERY

- This gallery was founded in 1865 by Pavel Tretyakov a wealthy trader and textile manufacturer. This man began buying works of Russian artists in 1856. His collection became important. He decided to expend his mansion into a museum. He donate the museum to Moscow in 1892. His brother Sergueï also donated many works. Since, the collections have continued to grow.
- The gallery is now the biggest collection of Russian art in the world. It includes more than 60 expositions organized in 7 halls with a total of more than 100 000 Russian works.



THE RUSSIAN MUSEUM OF ST PETERSBURG

- This palace was built between 1818 and 1825 by Carlo Rossi for the Great-Duke Michael, son of Paul the 1st. It takes place on the Arts square. The palace became a museum during the reign of Alexander the 3rd who wanted to create the equivalent of the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, but at St Petersburg. The museum had his name a few times after this emperor gave to the museum his personal collection.
- The museum occupies 3 buildings (the palace Michael, the wing Rossi and the wing Benois) connected by galleries.



CONCLUSION

- So, as we can see it, russian art is very different, there are so many various fields and spheres of paintings, so many various genres, so many famous painters and paintings.
- All these things proove us Russia is a very cultured country, it is very involved in the subject of culture.
- Russian art is really a theme that you have to get to know, to cognize if you are a cultured person.