

The Museum of the Russian icon



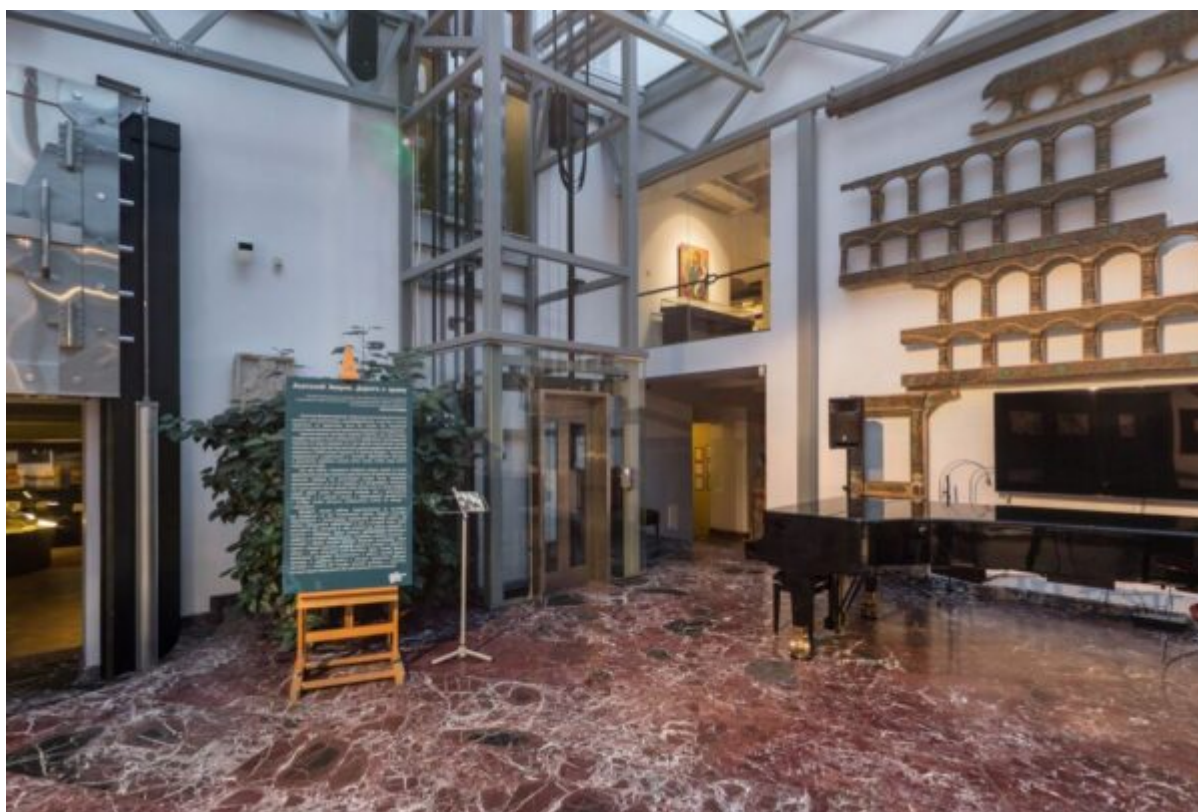
The Museum of the Russian icon was the initiative of the businessman and art patron Mikhail Abramov. It is the only Russian private collection of Byzantine and old Russian art that has been officially converted into a public museum which is recognized by the ICOM (International Council of Museums) and the Russian Union of Museums.

The collection was first opened to the public in the “Vereyskaya plaza” business centre in Moscow in 2006. Despite the rather intimate setting, the young museum immediately became popular in both academic and public circles due to a number of art projects it initiated. Such exhibitions as “Recovered heritage” (Tretyakov gallery, 2008) and “Masterpieces of Russian Icon painting, XIV-XVI centuries” (Pushkin Fine Arts museum, 2009) became prominent events in the cultural life of Russia.

The new museum complex on Taganskaya was officially opened to visitors in January 2011. The museum is housed in two mansions from the 19th-early 20th centuries on Goncharnaya street which were reconstructed and specially equipped for displaying and storing the collection. The acquisition, restoration, research and attribution of objects in the collection is carried out in accordance with the

standards in the State museums of art. Today the museum of Russian Icons represents not only the biggest private collection in Russia, numbering approximately 5 000 pieces, but it is also the widest in terms of scope of material. The collection includes Early Christian and Byzantine antiquities of the 6th - 14th centuries-some of which have no analogues even in the major museums of the country-Greek monuments, and a whole museum of Ethiopian Christian culture. The core of the collection embraces about 1 000 works of Russian icon painting, covering a wide





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