

As of 2/1/08

**Sources of Russian and Soviet Visual Cultures, 1860-1935:
Study, Teaching, and Education**

June 21-July 12, 2008 (3 weeks)

Co-Directors Edward Kasinec and Robert Davis

Academic Advisors: Steven Mansbach and Jane Ashton Sharp

Information: Robert Davis

Slavic and Baltic Division, Rm. 216

The New York Public Library

476 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10018

212/930-0940 or -0713

Rdavis@NYPL.org

www.nypl.org/research/chss/slv/neh/

A Companion Volume to the Institute

An informal continental breakfast and coffee will be available on days indicated below. Participants must present a voucher to get breakfast.

Box and buffet lunches, and afternoon teas will feature a different special guest. Box lunches (usually scheduled for 11:30 AM-1:00 PM) will take place in the Trustees Room on the days indicated. Other venues as noted.

Afternoon Teas (4-5:30), will take place in the Third Floor Staff Lounge on the days indicated.

DAY ONE: SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2008

5-8 PM Evening wine and cheese **reception** for participants, 213 East 48th Street..

Information packets, with Metrocards and other materials will be distributed at this time, for those who are able to attend.

DAY TWO: SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2008

CONTEXT

There will be one 15 minute break per formal session

1:00-1:30 PM **Introductions of participants, Directors, and Academic Advisors .**

1:30-2:30 Introductory Session. “Framing the Issues and Structure of the Institute.” E. Kasinec

Location: South Court Auditorium

Theme: In his presentation, **Edward Kasinec** will comment on some of the goals of the Institute, to wit: 1) fostering a better knowledge of the holdings of Russian, Soviet, and émigré visual sources (e.g., illustrated books and journals, posters, photographs, films, etc.) held in the collections of the NYPL, as well as those of kindred institutions in the New York area; 2) to examine, “read,” and reflect on these resources from the perspective of the workings of the systems in which they were produced, but also the symbolic value of the visual works generated; 3) to demonstrate some of the practical issues connected with the integration of these resources into teaching, public presentations, exhibitions. He will then formally introduce each of the participants, and explain the Institute’s expectations for each, while underscoring the desire to foster collegiality and sharing of interdisciplinary, intercultural perspectives. Participants will be asked to give a brief oral synopsis of their goals and projects for the Institute. Kasinec will highlight the credentials and explain the roles of Institute staff and guest speakers.

2:30-3:30 Questions to the Co-Directors and S. Mansbach, and review of participant research topics.

Location: HSSL South Court Classrooms A & B

Break

3:45-5:00 Orientation to the Resources of New York and The New York Public Library. R. Davis, A. Thornton/or Carrie Bickner.

Location: HSSL South Court Classrooms A & B. Includes a tour, departing from South Court, of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

In their remarks, **Robert Davis** and **Ann Thornton** will address the broad context of resources--academic, human, and material *objets*--in the New York Metropolitan area in general, and most specifically in the various Research Libraries of the NYPL. They will then tour the group through some of the venues and resources of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library.

Future Sundays will be available for research and independent leisure, organized tours, with optional social events in the evening. Passes and vouchers to major institutions—MoMA, Guggenheim, the Metropolitan Museum, the Whitney, and others—will be available from Mr. Davis on a rotating basis throughout the Institute.

DAY THREE: MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 “Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Political and Cultural Contexts” R. Wortman, J. Kennedy

Location: HSSL Classrooms A & B

In his presentation, **Richard Wortman** will deal with the political and cultural trends beginning with the era of reforms, continuing through the period of reaction, and culminating in the revolutionary events of the early twentieth century. It will focus on the changing relationship between state and society, the changes in ideology and symbol, and the varied responses to policies of industrialization. Professor Wortman will discuss the close connection between political events and the dominant cultural modes of each era, from the realistic sensibility of the late nineteenth century to the reception of modernism in the twentieth.

Janet Kennedy will provide an overview of the individuals and institutions that shaped Russian art in the late imperial period, as artists, critics, private patrons, and state institutions struggled during this period to control the interpretation of Russian history through the use of visual imagery.

11:30-1:30 Lunch, *Le Pain Quotidien*. Guests: Seymour Becker, Rutgers *Emeritus*; Alla Zeide, Hunter College, CUNY

1:30-2:45 **Group discussion**, moderated by **S. Mansbach** and special guest facilitators **E. Valkenier, A. Ascher**.

Location: Room 217

3-6 **Independent Project Research.**

The Co-Directors will make arrangements with curators at other collections, both *intra-* and *extra-muros*, to accommodate Participants as needed. S. Mansbach will be available for consultations.

Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate.

4-5:30 **Tea**, Staff Lounge, Third Floor.

DAY FOUR: TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 **“Political and Cultural Contexts of Art of the Revolutionary Era and Early Soviet Period” S. Kotkin, K. Kettering.**

Location: Classrooms A & B

In his presentation, **Stephen Kotkin** will deal with the political and economic conditions that shaped and conditioned the visual culture of early Soviet Russia. Among these factors were the political education needs of a vast, barely literate populace; the need for industrialization in the wake of Civil War, and the use of art and visual imagery to propagate the cult of personality.

Karen Kettering will examine the dynamic developments and personalities in Russian and Soviet culture after the October Revolution of 1917, among which were the further artistic maturation of Suprematism under Kazimir Malevich, and the remarkable contributions to modern European design, photography, painting, and architecture of Lissitzky, Rodchenko, Tatlin, the Sterenbergs, Eisenstein and scores of others

11:30-1:30 Box **Lunch**, Trustees Room. Guest: Alexander Rabinovich.

1:45-3 **Group discussion, with Co-Directors and S. Mansbach.**

Location: Classrooms A & B

3-7:15 **Independent Project Research.**

Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate.

4-5:30 **Tour** of the Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. B. Cohen-Stratynner.

6:30- Donnell Auditorium. **Sneak Preview** of the documentary "Art Rescuers of Nukus," with the producers Amanda Pope and Tchavdar Georgiev.

GENRES

DAY FIVE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 **"Illustrated Books, Journals, Book Jackets."** J. Ash, K. Miller, K. Regina.

Location: Donnell Library

Jared Ash, Kelly Miller and **Kristen Regina** will give three individual presentations that together will examine: the cultural collaborations between Russian artists, publishers, and writers from 1860-1935; and the overall treatment of the book as cultural artifact. Working within these two overarching themes, and starting in a chronological manner, Kristen Regina will cover the period 1860 to about 1925, focusing on the traditional art of the elite presses and their exclusive volumes and journals, illustrated publications dedicated to and by artists, changes in technology, and how these forces culminated to lay the foundations for the development of avant-garde books. Jared Ash will concentrate on the subject of primitivism in Russian futurist book design from 1910 to 1915. He will focus on how artists and poets collectively exploited the genre of the illustrated book to: challenge conventional trends in book design, art and poetry; promote national culture and indigenous, archaic art forms; and blur the lines between "high" and "low," by showing as great a reverence for the images of everyday life, as well as for the evangelical and sacred. Kelly Miller will focus on the development of the Russian children's book from 1900 through 1935. Particular attention will be given to the ways in which juvenile picture books serve as visual evidence of transformations in Russian art, politics, and everyday life just before and after the 1917 Revolutions.

11:30-1:30 **Lunch**, *Le Pain Quotidien*. Guest: Michael Weintraub.

1:45-3 **Group discussion with Institute Co-Directors, J. Sharp, and J. Ash.**
Location: South Court Auditorium

5-8 No-host **libations** at the Ginger Man, 11 East 36th Street.

DAY SIX: THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 **“Illustrated Demotic Literature and Minor Graphics.” J. Brooks, S. Norris.**
Location: Classrooms A & B

Steven Norris and Jeffrey Brooks. This session on "Illustrated Demotic Literature and Minor Graphics" concerns mass circulated images. Norris will discuss Russian representations of “enemies” in popular prints of the Imperial era and posters of the Soviet period. Brooks will discuss the evolving language of graphic representation from 1860s through the 1930s in magazines, newspapers, book illustrations, and other media. Changes in publishing technologies influenced the academic and fine press printing of that period. Based on the ever-expanding possibilities technology afforded printers, authors, and artists, Brooks will investigate the creative output of this period, focusing on collaborations and changing artistic styles in regard to illustrated books and journals. They will both examine the impact these printed materials had on Russia, and in turn other cultures outside Russia.

11:30-1:30 **Lunch**, *Le Pain Quotidien*. Special guest Vitalii Komar.

1:45-3 **Group discussion with Institute Co-Directors, J. Sharp, and J. Ash.**
Location: South Court Auditorium

3-5:45 **Independent Project Research**
Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate.

3:45-5:00 Viewing of exhibits, tour, and refreshments at A La Vieille Russie, 59th Street and Fifth Avenue..

DAY SEVEN: FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-12:30 **“Photography and Architecture.” W. Brumfield and K. Akinsha.**
Location: Classrooms A & B

William Brumfield's discussion of Russian photography during the late 19th and early 20th centuries will not only include the major personae, but will also examine the growth of photography as a popular medium. This latter topic will be placed within the context of railroad expansion and travel within the Russian Empire (the "heartland" as well as areas such as the Caucasus and Central Asia) a means of assimilating and projecting the concept of empire. The presentation will conclude with a view of the radical redirection of photography's priorities in the 1920s toward iconic images of the transformation of Soviet society. **Konstantin Akinsha** will pick up the thread for the Soviet period, discussing the topic "Soviet photography-the lies of an "objective medium." Photography was treated in the Soviet Union as the medium of modernity, able to record the "truth" because of the mechanical objectivity of the photo lens. However, very soon soviet photographers started to stage photographs, sacrificing the truth to the striking image. The presentation will try to answer the question to which extent soviet photography of the late 1920s - the early 1930s can be used as an historical source for everyday life in the USSR, and to what extent it is just propaganda.

12:30-1:30 Box **Lunch**, Trustees Room. Guest: Stephen Pinson, Curator of Photography, NYPL

1:30-5 Independent Project Research

Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate.

3-6 Optional Tour and Reception: Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art. **K. Soehner.**

Note that the Museum's galleries are open until 8:45 PM this evening.

DAY EIGHT: SATURDAY, JUNE 28

10-6 Guided Individual Project Research. Co-Directors and Academic Advisors will be available for individual consultation at HSSL by appointment.

Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate.

DAY NINE: SUNDAY, JUNE 29

10-12 Optional tour: Roerich Museum, 319 West 107th Street, led by **J. Ash**

DAY TEN: MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2008

10-5 Guided Individual Project Research. Co-Directors and J. Sharp will be available for individual consultation at HSSL by appointment.

Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate.

DAY ELEVEN: TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 **“Film”**. **D. Youngblood, M. Iampolski.**

Location: Donnell Library Media Center, West 53rd Street.

Movies have been an important part of Russian life since 1896. They not only *reflected* political, cultural and social developments in these tumultuous times, but also *shaped* Russian urban culture. This session will provide participants with an introduction to early Russian and Soviet Russian cinema in its historical context and demonstrate how to use films effectively in undergraduate courses on Russian art, history, and literature.

This session will include a screening and discussion of Yurii Tsivian’s *Immaterial Bodies: Cultural Anatomy of Early Russian Films* and a sneak screening of a documentary film on the NUKUS Museum, with commentary by Amanda Pope, USC.

12-3 Guided Tour of MoMA and visit to the Prints and Illustrated Book Department. Emily Talbot and Leah Dickerman [Dickerman participation TBConfirmed].

Group I (Max. of 15 persons): 12-1:15

Group II: 1:30-2:45 (Max. of 15 persons)

11:30-2:45 **No-host lunch**, MoMA Cafeteria. Group II will proceed to the cafeteria first; Group I will eat lunch after the conclusion of their tour.

PRAXIS

DAY TWELVE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008

9-ca. 1:30 **Visit to the Dodge Collection at the Zimmerli Museum, and Riabov Collection, Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ via bus. Location: Meet the bus near the 40th Street Library entrance at 8:45 AM

Presentation on museum and library collections and tour. **J. Sharp.**

Lunch at Rutgers. Guest: TBA

3-7:15 **Independent Project Research.**

Location: Room 217 or other NYC location, as appropriate

DAY THIRTEEN: THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2008

10-11 **The Jewish Museum. S. Braunstein, S. Goodman, C. Nahson.** Jewish Museum Auditorium, Fifth Avenue at 91st Street.

In their presentations, Curators Susan Braunstein, Susan Goodman, and Claudia Nahson will discuss the source of the historic exhibits, publications, and activities of The Jewish Museum relating to Russian and Soviet art and, most especially, the upcoming Fall 2008

exhibit on Soviet Jewish Theatre. Their presentations will be followed by a brief tour of the collection and the historic Warburg mansion in which it is housed.

11:30-1 **No-host lunch**, Guggenheim Museum Staff Cafeteria

1-3 **“The Museum as Educator: Modernism, Visual Culture, and the Guggenheim”**. **V. Hillings and T. Bashkoff**. {Note: this will be a lecture and private tour of the Museum, which is closed during these hours}.

From its inception, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum has considered education one of its most important objectives. Guggenheim curators **Tracey Bashkoff** and **Valerie Hillings** will discuss the pedagogical role of the museum through the lens of both a series of exhibitions dedicated to 19th and 20th-century Russian art and their collection’s strong holdings in the work of Vasily Kandinsky. Bashkoff and Hillings will detail how museums use a combination of wall texts, audio guides, brochures, and catalogues with scholarly essays to teach their audience about the works on display, and they will discuss the particular challenges of providing the correct balance and level of information within the exhibition space, especially in light of the museum’s inherently diverse audience. They will outline how curators help to shape and take part in educational programming ranging from symposia, lectures, art historical courses, exhibition tours, and intern programs within the museum to study trips abroad.

3:30-5 **Optional Visits to Uptown Museums**.

DAY FOURTEEN: FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2008: INDEPENDENCE DAY

6-10 PM Light supper at 213 East 48th Street, followed by viewing of Macy’s fireworks (weather permitting).

DAY FIFTEEN: SATURDAY, JULY 5

10:30-12 **Roundtable & Discussion: “The Dealer as Educator,”** E. Kasinec, Chair.
Opening comments by **A. Rosenfeld; Y. Harbick, I. Hutton**.
Location: South Court Auditorium

12-1:30 Box **Lunch**, Trustees Room

1:30-4 **Optional gallery visits:** SoHo (**J. Ash**); Uptown (E. Kasinec)

DAY SIXTEEN: SUNDAY, JULY 6

Museum/outing day.

5-8 PM Cocktails at the home of Edward Kasinec, Lido Beach, New York.

DAY SEVENTEEN: MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-12 **“The New Media in scholarly communications.” P. Kaufman and J. Greenberg, M. Kinder, S. Mahoy.**

Location: Classrooms A & B

Josh Greenberg and **Peter Kaufman** will lead a discussion on the various forms in which the media—especially digital—can be used to advance humanistic research and teaching in the humanities. Specific case studies will also be given by Mr. Greenberg from the varied experiences of the NYPL, Mr. Kaufman of Columbia University, and University Professor Marsha Kinder and Scott Mahoy from the Annenberg School (USC) Cinema Studies Labyrinth Project.

12-1:30 Lunch on your own.

1:30-3:30 **Optional Tours of either:**

Columbia University Libraries, the Sackler and Wallach Galleries. .

Or

The NYU Library and Resources.

DAY EIGHTEEN: TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 **Master Class: “Interpreting and Integrating the Printed & Illustrated Russian Text: Culture, Society, and the Soviet State, 1917-1930s.”**

J. Andrews.

Location: Classrooms A & B

James Andrews will emphasize how to use visual texts and illustrations in the classroom (as well as in their research) to more broadly emphasize fundamental political, social and cultural trends in the early Soviet period. The NYPL’s collection of early Soviet illustrated books, journals, posters, dust jackets, memorial albums and a host of other sources can be accessed both traditionally and electronically. This talk will weave those sources into a broader overview of the landscape of the visual printed text in early Soviet culture. This master class will navigate for participants how an educator can give a context and social/cultural meaning to printed visual sources during the 1920s and 1930s.

11:30-1:30 **Lunch**, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

1:45-3 **Optional break-out session for educators: The Visual in the Classroom.** This will be a session led by volunteers from among the participants, J. Andrews, and moderated by **C. Bickner-Zeldman**.

Location: Classrooms A & B

1:30-7:15 **Independent Project Research**

Location: Room 217

4-5:30 **Tea**, Staff Lounge, Third Floor

DAY NINETEEN: WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-11:30 **Master Class: “The Practical Use of Images” M. Mudrak**

Location: Classrooms A & B

Using the changing face of Russian and Ukrainian art in the period between 1860 and 1930 as a subject, **Myroslava Mudrak** will demonstrate how an art historian actively engaged in both teaching and research constructs a lecture, intellectual argument, or thematic unit on the basis of works of art, and how technology is integrated into the process. Her formal remarks will include a discussion of what databases she uses, how she accesses, selects, and organizes works for presentation to make them understandable to her audience.

11:30-1:30 Box **Lunch**, Trustees Room

1:45-3 **Optional break-out session for educators: The Visual in the Classroom. Part II.** This will be a session hosted by J. Greenberg and Prof. Mudrak.

Location: Classrooms A & B

1:30-7:15 **Independent Project Research**

Location: Room 217

4-5:30 **Tea**, Staff Lounge, Third Floor

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS BY PARTICIPANTS

DAY TWENTY: THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-12, 1-6 Participants make brief (20-25 minute) **Presentations** on their project research.

Location: South Court Auditorium

12-1:30 Box **Lunch**, Trustees Room

DAY TWENTY-ONE: FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2008

8:30-9:30 Continental breakfast, *Le Pain Quotidien*.

10-12, 2-5:30 Participant **Presentations**, continued.

12-1:30 Box **Lunch**, Trustees Room

6-8 Closing cocktail reception, 213 East 48th Street

CONCLUDING SESSION

DAY TWENTY-TWO: SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008

8:30-10 Continental Breakfast, Staff Lounge

10:15-12 **Summary Reactions/Observations** of Participants, Academic Advisors, and Project Co-Directors.

Location: South Court Auditorium