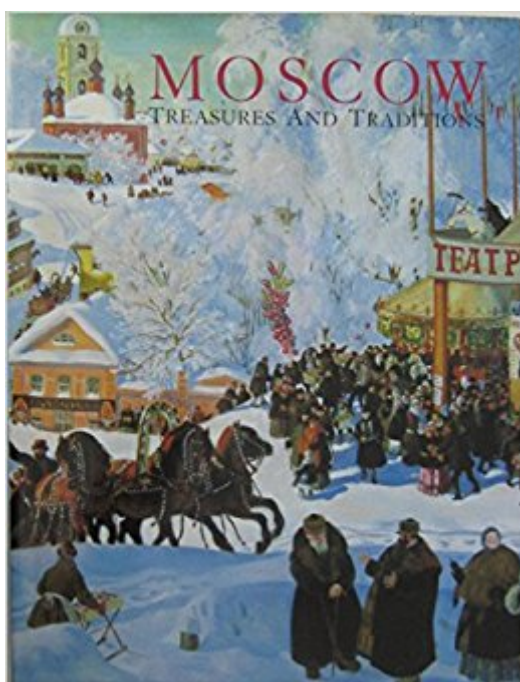


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Moscow: Treasures And Traditions (Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service)



Synopsis

The richness of Moscow's artistic legacy and the effects of various political, social and religious changes on the city's creative climate over the past 500 years are recorded here in 12 insightful essays by American and Soviet curators and academics, and in more than 180 brilliant color photographs and illustrations. Lincoln chronicles the capital's cultural heritage from the 1300s, when Moscow's princes appropriated art belonging to formerly independent territories as a symbol of the city's burgeoning political power. Olga G. Gordeeva examines the influence of European and Oriental styles on the traditional clothing of Moscow. The most interesting essay is John E. Bowl's piece on Russian art from 1910--when a group of artists including Kandinsky and Malevich began to apply radically new concepts like neoprimitivism to their work--until the present, when artists are allowed to shun the socialist realist method that had been forced upon them for decades. Also included are essays on metalwork, jewelry, porcelain and armor. This book is being published in conjunction with a traveling exhibition organized by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S.S.R. Ministry of Culture. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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Customer Reviews

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This work presents a dozen essays (primarily by Russian authors) to accompany a traveling exhibition of 240 art works produced in Moscow in the last 500 years. Paintings and decorative arts--textiles, metalwork, armor--are dominant. Though they tend to be general and brief, the essays are informative and well written. Even with glasnost the tone is largely laudatory, and the exhibition appears to be an example of artistic diplomacy. There is no depth here for the specialist--the treatment of recent artistic developments is the weakest aspect--but the book offers the general reader an idea of art-making in Russia's greatest city.- Jack Perry Brown, Ryerson & Burnham Libs., Art Inst. of Chicago Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

These are high-quality photos on good paper of paintings, coins, ceramics, sculpture and fabrics created by Russians. Good catalogue and extensive notes. Although the emphasis is on the Romanov era, there are also some antiquities and 20th-century pieces, which we don't often have a chance to see. There is more and better Russian art than you may have imagined.

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