



New Orleans Museum of Art

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NOMA Opens New Gallery: *Peter Carl Fabergé and Other Russian Masters*

Recent acquisitions and long-term loans include 33 miniature Easter eggs

[Hi-res images available upon request.]

NEW ORLEANS, La. (Monday, December 8, 2008)—A new chapter in the New Orleans Museum of Art's tradition of exhibiting the finest jeweled objects from Imperial Russia will commence this week with the opening of a new permanent gallery on the second-floor mezzanine, *Peter Carl Fabergé and Other Russian Masters*. The installation features scores of works never before seen by local audiences, including 33 miniature Easter Eggs by Fabergé, as well as six larger eggs created by the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory for Tsars Nicholas I, Alexander III and Nicholas II.

Admission to the Museum is free to all through January 18 and will remain free to Louisiana residents beyond that date.

In all, *Peter Carl Fabergé and Other Russian Masters* features 58 works by Fabergé, including cigarette cases, photograph frames, hardstone animals, table boxes and a rare silver and enamel icon. Objects by such major Fabergé competitors as the firms of Ovchinnikov and Khlebnikov also are on display, including a gem-set silver and enamel Easter Egg by Ovchinnikov.

This new exhibition features an entirely separate group of objects from the 108 works currently featured in *OBJECTS OF DESIRE: Fabergé from the Hodges Family Collection*, a major NOMA-organized exhibition now on view on the Museum's first floor.

The 33 miniature Easter Eggs by Fabergé, reminiscent of the Imperial eggs long associated with the Museum, are prominently featured. Eighteen of these miniature Easter Eggs are presented on an antique Russian gold necklace, while others are on period gold bracelets. A miniature gold tree has 13 of these pendant Easter Eggs displayed as fruit.

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Peter Carl Fabergé and Other Russian Masters
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The six Easter Eggs by the Imperial Porcelain Manufactory were designed as presents to prominent member of the courts on the all-important Easter holiday. A rare Imperial porcelain plaque with an equestrian portrait of the Grand Duke Nicholas, uncle of the last Tsar, is also part of this new display.

The work of the Imperial Handstone Shops is represented by four rare objects, including a dancing bear in gem rock crystal, a smoky Topaz handseal and another of silver-mounted heliotrope and sardonyx, and a circular nephrite and gold table box set with carved obsidian, red jasper and topaz.

This new installation includes a number of pieces from the former imperial collections, such as a gilt-bronze-mounted malachite mantel clock from the collection of Tsarina Maria Alexandrova (1818-1888) and a Fabergé silver, enamel, and ivory photograph frame originally belonging to Tsar Nicholas II and containing the original photograph of his mother, Tsarina Maria Feodorovna, and his youngest sister, the Grand Duchess Olga.

OBJECTS OF DESIRE: Fabergé from the Hodges Family Collection remains on view through January 18 before embarking on a national tour. *Peter Carl Fabergé and Other Russian Masters* is a permanent installation and will remain on long-term view.

About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 30,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to Louisiana residents through the generosity of The Helis Foundation.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 57 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Besthoff Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

For more information, call (504) 659-4100 or visit www.noma.org.

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