

HERMITAGE FOUNDATION UK 2016

2016 was a superb year for fundraising, allowing us to continue to support the work of the Hermitage Foundation UK on many levels. It was also a very good year for Friends, those who subscribe to membership of the Hermitage Foundation UK, and for our Visiting Curators Scheme, now in its sixteenth year, which continues to advance research and publication.

Thank you to everyone who supported us!

Friends Events

There were private curator-led tours of *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse* at the Royal Academy; *Botticelli Reimagined* at the Victoria & Albert Museum; *Russia & The Arts: The Age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky* at the National Portrait Gallery; *Delacroix and the Rise of Modern Art* at the National Gallery; *In the Age of Giorgione* at the Royal Academy; *The Empress and the Gardener* at Hampton Court Palace; *Icons of Modern Art* at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris; and *Abstract Expressionism* at the Royal Academy. A reception for the book launch of *Dynastic Rule: Mikhail Piotrovsky and the Hermitage* by Geraldine Norman was organised at the Russian Ambassador's residence and attended by Professor Piotrovsky.



Friends of the Hermitage Foundation UK at *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse*

Visiting Curators Scheme

Sixteen years old, this scheme has made a vital contribution to research and publication at the State Hermitage Museum. In 2016 it once again offered opportunities to our colleagues in St Petersburg. There were nine participants, including Tatiana Riabkova from the Department of the Archaeology of Eastern Europe and Siberia; Olga Gorskaya from the Antiquities Department; Nadezda Sinyutina from the Contemporary Art Department; Denis Prokhoratov from the Department for the Scientific Examination of Works of Art; Nikolai Onegin and Elena Anisimova from the Department of the History of Russian Culture and the Department of Western European Decorative Art, and two lecturers from the Education Department, Daria Kulikova and Yulia Lukyanova. These visits were possible thanks to vital sponsorship from Sotheby's and The Sackler Trust.

Annual Gala

We were absolutely delighted with our Annual Gala, hosted by Professor Piotrovsky, which was held at Kensington Palace on 28 April 2016. It was the most successful fund raising event we have held so far, making a record £450,000 net. Auction lots included works by Marc Quinn, Tony Cragg, Ilya Kabakov and Erté as well as dining and travel opportunities. It was attended by several members of the Hermitage Museum Board of Trustees, UK museum directors, representatives of the Hermitage Museum Foundation USA and other eminent supporters.



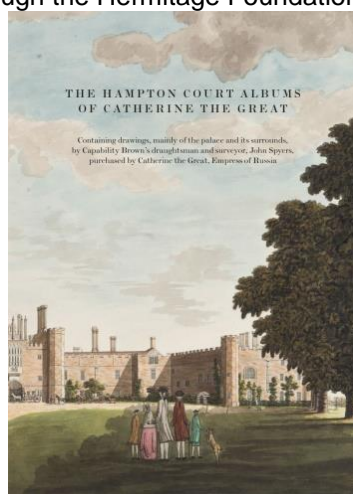
Kensington Palace interior and Mark Quinn at the gala with his painting *The Eye of History*, which was donated for our Gala Auction

The Empress and the Gardener at Hampton Court

The gala was timed to coincide with the opening of the exhibition *The Empress and The Gardener* at Hampton Court Palace, curated by Mikhail Dedinkin of the Hermitage and co-ordinated by the Hermitage Foundation UK. A remarkable collection of watercolour paintings and drawings from an album of works by the draughtsman who worked for Capability Brown was exhibited as part of nationwide celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot (Capability) Brown. Professor Piotrovsky attended the opening of the exhibition and a small dinner for the trustees of the Hermitage Foundation UK and Historic Royal Palaces. A three-day conference, *Capability Brown Royal Gardener – The Man and his Business, Past, Present and Future* was held at Hampton Court Palace in June. The speakers included Mikhail Dedinkin, David Jacques, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan and Oliver Cox, along with several distinguished university lecturers and museum directors. The conference, which was attended by over 90 participants, included a tour of the exhibition with Mikhail Dedinkin

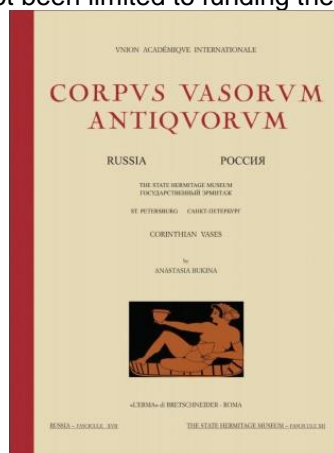
Publication of *The Hampton Court Albums of Catherine the Great*

The accompanying catalogue *The Hampton Court Albums of Catherine the Great* was published by the Hermitage Foundation UK and generously sponsored by Evgeny Lebedev. A tour of the exhibition was arranged for him, accompanied by Mikhail Dedinkin and Janice Sacher. Copies of this catalogue are available through the Hermitage Foundation UK



Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum

In 1919 a project was established to catalogue all known Greek vases and related wares in museums and private collections across the world. <http://www.cvaonline.org/cva/> Twelve volumes of Hermitage vases have so far appeared, the last two in 2016, with translation funded by the Hermitage Foundation UK. Both are by recipients of Visiting Curators grants, so the Hermitage Foundation UK's involvement has not been limited to funding the translation!



One of the volumes sponsored by the Hermitage Foundation UK and Drs Bukina and Petrakova with their book on the history of the Hermitage's vase collection, published in Oxford in 2013

Erté: An Art Deco Genius

The Hermitage Foundation UK supported the extremely successful exhibition *Erté: An Art Deco Genius* in St. Petersburg. It consisted of over a hundred original works in gouache from the Estorick Family Collection. The Hermitage Foundation UK organised the catalogue – which was sponsored by the Grosvenor Gallery London and the Martin Lawrence Galleries in the USA – with Fontanka Publishers.

Other Sponsorship Projects

The Hermitage Foundation UK also financed further projects of significance to the museum, amongst them:

- the purchase of a watercolour *View of Sergievka Palace* by Luigi Premazzi
- a visit to the Hermitage by Peter Klein, a dendrochronologist from Hamburg, to date the painting *The Garden of Delights* by a follower of Hieronymus Bosch. He also dated another fourteen panel paintings whilst he was there.
- a visit to St Petersburg by Ian Christie, an expert on the film-maker Sergei Eisenstein, to advise on a forthcoming exhibition
- *The Day of Hermitage Light Show* in Palace Square on 7 December 2016



As of 31 December 2016 the Hermitage International Endowment Fund, under the supervision of the Hermitage Foundation UK, was valued at £2,300,000.