

HERMITAGE FOUNDATION UK – 2014 ACTIVITIES

2014 for the Hermitage Foundation UK began with a reception at The Russian Ambassador's Private Residence to celebrate the London Season of St Petersburg's Boris Eifman Ballet.

Professor Piotrovsky came to London in April for a conference we organised at Kings College for Manifesta 10 – *Can Contemporary Art Mix with Old Masters?* The conference was opened by Professor Piotrovsky speaking on 'Contemporary Art in an Encyclopaedic Museum'. Other key speakers were Professor Kaspar König, Chief Curator of Manifesta and Dr Neil McGregor, Director of the British Museum. It was very well attended by people from the Museum world, from galleries and by contemporary artists.

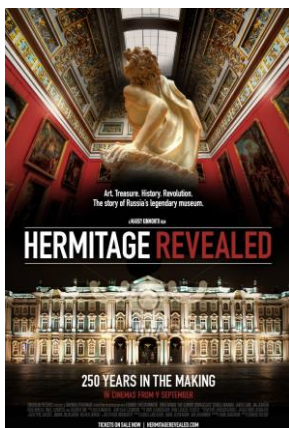
The following day we held a book launch for the revised and expanded English edition of *Selling Russia's Treasures* by Nicholas Ilijine and Natalya Semyonova. Professor Piotrovsky welcomed the book and spoke of the Museum's tragic losses in the 1920s and 1930s.

In June 27 guests from the UK attended the Winter Palace Gala. We were entertained with an opera and ballet performance in the Hermitage Theatre before dining in the newly opened General Staff Building and touring the **MANIFESTA** exhibition.

We were able to arrange curator led tours of the major art exhibitions in London for our Friends and Patrons including *Veronese: Magnificence in Renaissance Venice*, *Malevich*, *Rembrandt: The Late Works*, *Russian Avant-Garde Theatre: War, Revolution and Design*.

Towards the end of 2014 we arranged a reception at the Russian Ambassador's Residence to launch the Hermitage *Francis Bacon & the Masters* exhibition which will be shown at the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts in Norwich from 18th April 2015.

A major autumn event was the UK Premiere of **Hermitage Revealed** – a film made (not without considerable assistance from The Hermitage Foundation UK!) to celebrate the 250th anniversary of The Hermitage Museum. It has since been shown in 18 different countries, including Russia, United States and Australia. It was also shown on BBC 4 on 4th January 2015 and there are DVDs available.



In December the loan from the British Museum of an Elgin Marble – the statue of the River God Ilyssos – caused an international sensation. Neil McGregor personally escorted this birthday celebration loan to the Museum.

The Hermitage Foundation UK acquired a Mamluk Wood Panel from the Mosque of Ibn Tulun and donated it to the Museum. We were delighted to see it in the *New Acquisitions Exhibition* at the Staraya Derevnya Restoration and Storage Centre