



PRESS RELEASE

26 March 2019

TATE MODERN

NATALIA GONCHAROVA

6 June – 8 September 2019

The Eyal Ofer Galleries, Tate Modern

Open daily 10.00 – 18.00 and until 22.00 on Friday and Saturday

For public information call +44(0)20 7887 8888, visit tate.org.uk or follow [#Tate](https://twitter.com/Tate) [#NataliaGoncharova](https://twitter.com/NataliaGoncharova)

This summer, Tate Modern will present the UK's first ever retrospective of the Russian avant-garde artist Natalia Goncharova. It will be a sweeping survey of a pioneering and radical figure, celebrated during her lifetime as a leading modernist artist. Throughout her varied career she challenged the limits of artistic, social and gender conventions, from parading through the streets of Moscow displaying futurist body art and scandalising newspapers of the day, to creating internationally acclaimed designs for fashion and the theatre.

Goncharova's artistic output traces, influences and transcends the art movements of the 20th century. Born in 1881, she was inspired by the traditional customs and cultures of her native Central Russia – inspirations that pervade her life's work. By the age of 32, she had already established herself as a leader of the Moscow avant-garde and was the subject of the first monographic exhibition ever staged by a Russian modernist artist. Arriving in Paris in 1914 at the invitation of Sergei Diaghilev, Goncharova was feted for her vibrant costume and set designs for the Ballets Russes.

The exhibition gathers together over 160 international loans which rarely travel, including from Russia's State Tretyakov Gallery which houses the largest collection of Goncharova works in the world. At the heart of the show will be a room evoking Goncharova's remarkable 1913 retrospective that was held at the Mikhailova Art Salon in Moscow, which originally featured some 800 works.

Highlights will include early paintings such as *Peasants Gathering Apples* 1911, formerly owned by the Morozov family, one of great art collectors of the early 20th century; the monumental seven-part work *The Harvest* 1911, bringing together paintings from four international collections; and her scandalous paintings of nudes, the first public display of which led to her trial for obscenity. A section devoted to Goncharova's religious painting will include the *Evangelists* 1911, a four-panel work which had delighted London in 1912 but shocked Russia's capital of St Petersburg in 1914 where the authorities removed it from display. A room will be dedicated to her work in fashion design and her collaborations with Nadezhda Lamanova, couturier of the Imperial court, while her forays into interior design will be represented by the decorative screen *Spring* 1928, commissioned by the Arts Club of Chicago and never lent until now, and *Bathers* 1922, a monumental triptych which will be displayed in the UK for the first time.

In seeking to underline Goncharova's ground-breaking experiments with the modernist styles of cubo-futurism, abstraction and rayonism, the exhibition will reunite *Linen* from Tate's own collection with *Loom + Woman (The Weaver)* from the National Museum of Wales and *The Forest* from the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, all created in the same studio in 1913 and on display together for the first time since then.

Finally, the exhibition will close with a room dedicated to her collaborations with the Ballets Russes, the work for which she was best known from 1914 to the 1950s. It will present the artist's most groundbreaking work for the theatre, including costume designs for *Le Coq d'or* (The Golden Cockerel) and *Les Noces* (The Wedding), both

performed on London stages in the 1920s and 30s, as well as examples of actual costumes used in historic ballet productions.

Natalia Goncharova is curated by Natalia Sidlina, Curator of International Art, and Matthew Gale, Head of Displays, with Katy Wan, Assistant Curator, Tate Modern. It is supported by LetterOne, with additional support from Mr Petr Aven, and is organised by Tate Modern in collaboration with Palazzo Strozzi, Florence where it will open on 28 September 2019 and the Ateneum Art Museum, Helsinki where it will open on 21 February 2020.

For press information contact Rebecca@RebeccaWard.co.uk or Kitty.Malton@tate.org.uk or call +44(0)7977 071 450 / +44(0)20 7887 8730.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT LETTERONE

LetterOne was founded in 2013 and is an international investment business, with offices in London and New York, headquartered in Luxembourg. LetterOne's strategy is to build a new portfolio of successful companies that are leaders in their fields and sectors. It makes long-term investments of its own capital in companies in which its sectoral experience and strategic and geographic expertise will improve performance and help companies grow. It has recruited world-class CEOs, sector investment teams and Advisory Boards to invest at scale. It buys and build assets which it can develop over time as platforms of long-term sustainable growth. It invests through L1 Energy, L1 Technology, L1 Health and L1 Retail.