



Opening of the exhibition “Jewels! Glittering at the Russian court” in Amsterdam

On September 13, 2019, the Hermitage Amsterdam Exhibition Centre hosted the grand opening of the Jewels! Glitter of the Russian Court." This is the second exhibition this year, representing exceptional masterpieces from the collection of the State Hermitage Museum and organized in honour of the 255th anniversary of the museum, the 15th anniversary of cooperation and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the centre.

The Hermitage is one of the largest museums in the world, and the collection of jewellery has its own special status in it. Over the centuries, it was formed as Imperial, only the best works of art fell into it. The best minerals were stored in the royal collection, both in the artistic and in the mineralogical sense. It is no accident that in Russian the words “valuable” and “precious” have the same root.

The exposition includes more than 300 exhibits showing the brilliant life of the Russian Court. The exhibition presents the masterpieces of Cartier, Lalique and Tiffany, the court jeweller Faberge and many other masters. Shining diamonds and emeralds, rubies and sapphires - almost all types of precious stones are displayed at the exhibition. Jewellery, magnificent costumes, ball gowns and other personal items, as well as a gallery of portraits - all this will tell about the two-century history of the high society of Russia and St. Petersburg.

Visitors will learn about the life of Russian Emperors and Empresses, first of all - about the powerful Elizabeth Petrovna and Catherine the Great. The company of the Russian Empresses will be Anna Pavlovna, daughter of Paul I, Queen of the Netherlands from 1840 to 1849. Together with the Romanovs, the aristocratic families of the 18th – early 20th centuries “shine”.



The impressive design of the exposition is inspired by the flickering play of light and colour of precious stones and the monumental St. Petersburg. Visitors have an incredible opportunity to look into the treasury with the most luxurious jewellery that the State Hermitage can offer. They follow the route, passing through the most diverse scenes of life of an aristocratic society of past years - weddings, holidays, personal meetings. For a long time there were no people who owned these precious gizmos, but their secrets still live in them, exciting our imagination, forcing to revive the long-gone pages of history.

The curator of the exhibition is Olga G. Kostyuk , Head of the Department of Western European Applied Art of the State Hermitage.

