

## NADFAS STUDY DAY

### THEODORA CLARKE

#### *Russian and Soviet Art: From Icons to Socialist Realism*

This study day is aimed at anyone with an interest in Russian and Soviet art. This course offers an introduction to an intriguing period of artistic and political evolution in Russia. We aim to present the major movements and artists of 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian art and to place the various “isms” of the avant-garde within a wider cultural context. Major artists to be considered include Kandinsky, Malevich, Tatlin, Lissitzky, Goncharova, Chagall, Rodchenko and Popova. Key topics to be discussed include imperial patronage of Russian art under the Tsar and the evolution of various avant-gardes in Russia. We will also investigate the work of Diaghilev and his internationally renowned ballet company the Ballets Russes through costume and stage designs.

Art movements to be considered include the World of Art, the Blue Rose Group, the Wanderers and Knave of Diamonds. We will then consider the rise of geometric non-objective painting, the creation of a new Soviet culture after the 1917 Russian Revolution and how Socialist Realist painting came about in the USSR after 1932. Major works in the State Russian Museum collections will be examined including paintings in the Hermitage and the Tretyakov Gallery in St Petersburg and Moscow. We will study artistic creativity during a time of revolutionary change and look at cultural connections between Russia and Europe. The aim of the course is to introduce you to a variety of artists working at a dynamic time in Russian history.

#### Course Content:

1. Origins of Art in Russia: From the Icon to the Wanderers
2. Russia and the West: Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes
3. Introduction to the Russian Avant-Garde

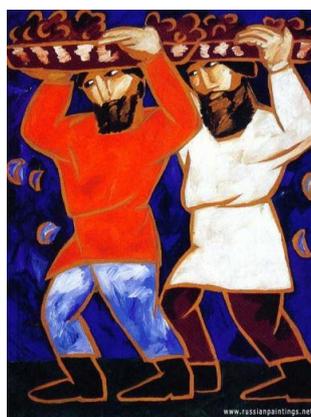
*Theodora Clarke is an expert and lecturer on Russian art and twentieth century modernism. Visit her website: [www.theodoraclarke.co.uk](http://www.theodoraclarke.co.uk).*



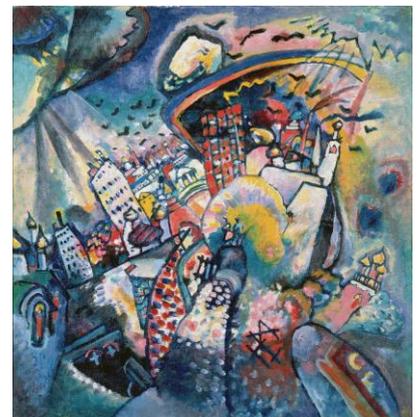
Rublev *Holy Trinity* (1410)



Repin *Portrait of Tolstoy* (1901)



Goncharova *Peasants Gathering Grapes* (1911)



Kandinsky *Moscow* (1914)