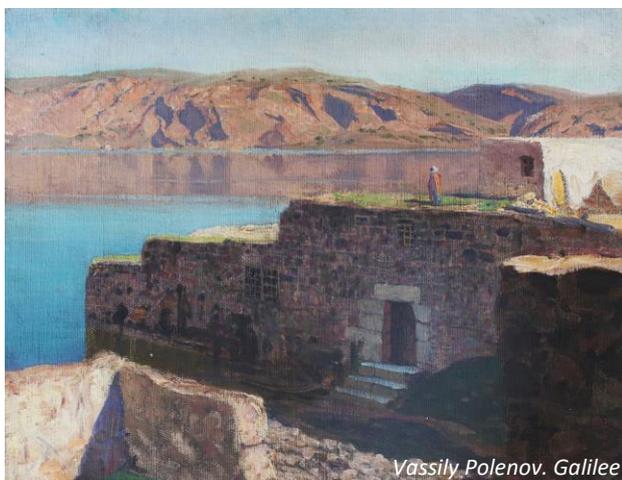


Press release, 11.05.2017

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS “IN SEARCH OF THE PROMISED LAND”

From June 25th through July 30th the Vassily Polenov State Memorial Historical and Arts Museum and Natural Reserve together with the Vassily Polenov Association and in partnership with The Ralph Goldman Nikitskaya Jewish Community Center will hold the Summer International Festival of Arts “In Search of the Promised Land”.

The curator of the festival is pianist and music producer Basinia Shulman.



Vassily Polenov. Galilee

The Promised Land – as a subject and a source of inspiration for musicians, artists and writers – has become the prime mover of the new festival of the arts in POLENOVO.

The Russian painter Vassily Polenov traveled in many countries and visited the Middle East several times. Finally, he found his personal paradise on the banks of the Oka River. But the Orient impressed him significantly, and was the main source of inspiration for him during his life. What is the Promised Land? Where is it located? Is there only one, or does everyone have their own? Those are the philosophic questions that interest the organizers of the arts festival, just like they intrigued Vassily Polenov and other prominent personalities of the late 19th century.

“**IN SEARCH OF THE PROMISED LAND**” is a new cultural bridge between the two sides of the art of Vassily Polenov: his actual Eldorado – the country estate POLENOVO – and the Biblical Land of Promise, which inspired the artist to create his main series of paintings. Therefore, the festival of arts will bring together professionals from different countries: art historians, musicians, authors and performers in various genres. From June 25th to July 30th there will take place a marathon of artistic events for the whole family: exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, interesting lectures and master-classes, in POLENOVO itself and at partnering spaces.

“We called the festival “In search of the Promised Land” for a good reason: because Polenov headed to the Middle East to find historical truth and to confirm his own vision of the Biblical stories. The cultural goal of the festival is to show the artistic diversity in the countries of this region, which is why we have invited very popular performers, musicians, lecturers, photographers and artists to participate.” (Basinia Shulman, festival curator)

“In his quest for the Promised Land, Vassily Polenov toured the Middle East twice. But he discovered his paradise here, on the Oka River. This summer festival is a cultural bridge between the two worlds, which seem to be so far away from each other, and yet were brought together by the power of the talent of the Russian painter.” (Natalya Polenova, director of the museum and natural reserve POLENOVO)

CONTACTS FOR THE PRESS

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THE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

June 12 – press conference

June 21 – the Music Holiday at Bolotov Dacha, with **Jean-Pierre Smadja** (France)

June 25 – THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL

The opening of the exhibition “Vassily Polenov in the Holy Land” dedicated to the famous “Gospel Cycle” of the artist **Dgani Tzabari** (Israel) – a singer working in different genres: jazz, soul, ethnic and world music

July 2

Lecture of **Yossi Tavor**, a well-known journalist and music critic

Concert of **Basem al-Ashkar**, a virtuoso player on the oud, an Arabic stringed instrument, with the **Moscow Andalusia Ensemble**

July 9

Lecture of **Pavel Kriuchkov** «Jewish issues in the works of Kornei Chukovsky» (jointly with the State Literature Museum)
A literary evening with **Dina Rubina** (Israel)

July 16

Lecture of **Dmitry Mazo** “The White City”

Concert of **Alon Harari** (countertenor, Israel) and **Gideon Brettler** (guitar, Israel)

July 23

Lecture of **Alexander Okun** (Israel) on contemporary art: “The greatest adventure or the biggest lie”

Concert of the ensemble **La villa barocca**

July 30 – THE CLOSING OF THE FESTIVAL

«There where the Shulamite wondered...» – a theatrical and musical performance presented by **Leonid Kanevsky** (artistic reading) and **Basinia Shulman** (piano)

Klezmer band «**LAKOCHA**»

The list of the festival events also includes the exhibition of photographer **Alexey Naroditsky** “The white city of Tel-Aviv”, as well as a screening of the documentary “The Gospel Cycle of Vassily Polenov” which tells about Vassily Polenov’s two trips to the Middle East in search of biblical themes. **There will be organized special programs for children and a series of master-classes throughout the entire festival.**

Coordinated with the theme of the festival, the restaurant “Mark & Lev” will offer a menu of oriental food.

FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

The main festival curator is **Basinia Shulman**, pianist and producer
www.basia.ru, www.facebook.com/BasiniaShulmanPianist

The **State memorial historical and art museum and natural reserve of Vassily Polenov** is the only Russian museum still directed by the descendants of the artist. The museum is active internationally: it disseminates information about the artist, holds exhibitions in different countries and organizes residencies for foreign academics and cultural figures.

www.polenovo.ru, www.facebook.com/polenovo

The **Ralph Goldman Nikitskaya Jewish Community Center** is the cultural heart of the Jewish community in Moscow. The center welcomes all who are interested in the wealth of Jewish history and traditions. Apart from grand events connected with the Jewish holidays, the center offers educational and cultural programs for all ages all year round.

www.jcc.ru, www.facebook.com/NikitskayaJCC

The **Vassily Polenov Association** was created in Paris in 2007. The goals of the association embrace a number of areas: acquainting foreigners with the legacy of Vassily Polenov and the work of other Russian artists and the organization of international and cultural exchanges.

www.vassilypolenov.com, www.facebook.com/vassilypolenovassociation



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«LAKOCHA»

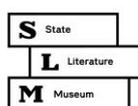
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