

NOB

NORTH OF BYZANTIUM

NoB Newsletter | Spring 2023

Dear NoB Subscribers,

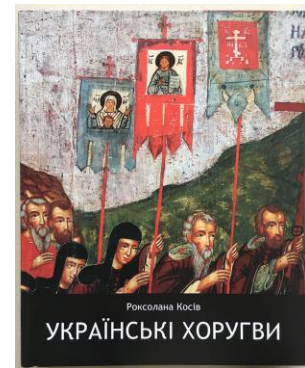
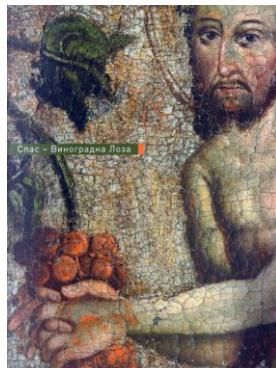
We hope our message finds you well despite the continuing trying times we live through.

We write to share with you the Spring 2023 issue of the **North of Byzantium Newsletter**, where you will find updates on upcoming NoB initiatives, publications, events, and resources.

We are thrilled to announce that starting in February, Roksolana Kosiv has joined our [Mapping Eastern Europe](#) project as the Research Fellow in the Cultural Heritage of Ukraine!

Roksolana Kosiv is an associate professor, head of the Sacral Art Department at Lviv National Academy of Arts (Ukraine), and a senior scholar at the Andrei Sheptytskyi National Museum in Lviv. Her main research interest is Ukrainian church art of the 17th and the first half of the 18th centuries from the Western regions of Ukraine and the border areas of Poland and Slovakia.

She has published several books, including *Rybotychi Center of Church Art of the 1670s–1760s* (2019), *Christ the Vine: icons from the collection of the Andrei Sheptytskyi National Museum in Lviv* (2016), *Liturgical Veils for the Chalice and the Discos (with the catalog of works with figurative images from the collection of Andrei Sheptytskyi National Museum in Lviv)* (2013), and *Ukrainian Banners* (2009).



For more than a decade, Roksolana has been a custodian of the collection of old textiles at the Andrei Sheptytskyi National Museum in Lviv, which includes church textiles, clergy vestments, secular clothes, and icons on canvas. She has curated major exhibitions on Ukrainian banners, icon painting on fabrics, icons of the Theotokos (Pokrov), and the Rybotychi masters in the museums of Lviv and Kyiv.

For the *Mapping Eastern Europe* project, Roksolana will create entries on the following topics:

- A thematic overview on the Ukrainian icons of the 15th–17th centuries in the collection of the Andrei Sheptytskyi National Museum in Lviv
- A thematic overview of church textiles and vestments of the clergy of the 15th–17th centuries in the collection of the Andrei Sheptytskyi National Museum in Lviv
- A case study on the “Zhovkva” iconostasis by Ivan Rutkovych, 1697–1699
- A case study on the Protection of the Theotokos Icon from Cheremoshnia
- A case study on the 15th-century epitaphios of the church in Zhyrivka, Lviv region

To expand our coverage of Ukrainian cultural heritage, we are also working on entries on:

- Crimea and its monuments
- The Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, its churches and collections
- The Cathedral of Saint Sophia in Kyiv
- Select holdings in local Ukrainian collections, and much more

In response to current events, we continue our call for contributions to the *Mapping Eastern Europe* website focused on the cultural heritage of the regions of modern Ukraine. If you are interested in contributing, please fill out this [form](#).



The *Mapping Eastern Europe* website is continuously growing and we will be uploading in the coming weeks, several new entries on:

- The icon-folder of Ambrose (1456)
- Terracotta Decorations in the North Adriatic region
- The Representation of the Heretics in Byzantine and post-Byzantine Art
- The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople (13th-17th Centuries)
- The Ioannina Island and its Monastic Community
- The Bell of Anastasie Crimca
- Paolo Veneziano’s Lost Altarpiece for the Church of St. Dominic in Ragusa

NoB | SHERA @ CAA



We co-organized a panel titled “**What is Eastern European Art?**” at the 111th Annual Conference of the College Art Association, in New York City, on Friday, February 17, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM. The session explored and challenged our understanding about Eastern European art from the Middle Ages to the present through presentations that engaged with the artistic production of different regions. The papers showcased the wealth and complexity of the artistic production of Eastern Europe, ranging from medieval textiles to modern female architects and from Tatar timber mosques to contemporary artworks.



Speakers:

Catherine Volmensky (The University of British Columbia)
Byzantine Embroideries and the Entangled Visual Traditions of Eastern Europe

Radek Przedpelski (Trinity College Dublin) & **Marta Zboralska** (University of Oxford)
Problematising the Notion of “Eastern European Art”: Two Case Studies of a Multiplicity

Jelena Bogdanović (Vanderbilt University)
Women Architects at the Intersection of Contested Narratives and Research Methods about Eastern Europe

Nicoletta Rousseva (Indiana University, Bloomington)
“Tear Down and Rebuild”: New Political Horizons in Eastern European Art

The visual material of Eastern Europe has not been at the forefront of art historical conversations in part due to political ideologies, conflicting definitions of what constitutes Eastern Europe, or lack of access to and interest in the material, to name but several issues. The overall aim of this session was to begin to define what Eastern European art is today, create a platform that demonstrates how the richness and originality of Eastern European artistic production defies easy categorizations, and help establish the visual culture of this region on the map of art history.

The session was sponsored by the Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture ([SHERA](#)).

Upcoming Events:

WOMEN'S IMPACT: BYZANTIUM IN THE VISUAL CULTURE OF MEDIEVAL EASTERN EUROPE

Maria Alessia Rossi, PhD
Princeton University

Alice Isabella Sullivan, PhD
Tufts University

5:30 p.m. | Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Room 202, Buchanan A Building
1866 Main Mall

Top left: Ruins of the Fortress in Mangup, Crimea. Top right: Embroidered burial cover of Maria of Mangup, Pidna Monastery. Bottom left: Poada with the Presentation of the Virgin, before 1477, gift to Gregorios Monastery. Bottom right: Portrait of Milutin and Simonis, south wall, 1313-14, mural, King's Church, Studenica.



We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated within the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the x̱məθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam).



We will be giving an NoB Lecture at the University of British Columbia in conjunction with the Center for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University on March 23, 2023 titled, *Women's Impact: Byzantium in the Visual Culture of Medieval Eastern Europe*.

Byzantium has long shaped the history and visual culture of medieval Eastern Europe, which have transformed in local contexts the rich legacy of the medieval Eastern Roman Empire before and after the fall of Constantinople in 1453. This lecture explores the history and artistic production of medieval Eastern Europe in relation to Byzantium through the lens of two notable women and their impact: Simonis, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Andronikos II (r. 1282–1328) and wife of the Serbian King Milutin (r. 1282–1321), and Maria Asanina Palaiologina of Mangup, the second wife of Stephen III of Moldavia (r. 1457–1504). These royal women played critical roles in establishing diplomatic connections and promoting artistic contacts between the Byzantine cultural sphere and the Serbian and Moldavian realms, respectively. The analysis of key objects and monuments - ranging from monumental building projects to mural cycles, textiles, manuscripts, and metalwork - reveals local adaptations of competing traditions and how interconnected the regions of the Balkans and the Carpathians were relative to Byzantium and to each other during and after the empire's collapse. In addition, the lecture outlines current scholarly approaches to the study of the visual culture of medieval Eastern Europe, and engages with theoretical concerns and issues of terminology around the study of art and architecture in cross-cultural and transcultural contexts.

In addition to the lecture, we will run a graduate workshop at the University of British Columbia about digital projects in the humanities, focused on our work on *North of Byzantium* and *Mapping Eastern Europe*.

Ongoing:

- We are developing a *Handbook of Byzantium and the Danube Regions (13th–16th c.)*, which will be published with Routledge in 2023/2024. We are currently working with our authors and copyeditor to finalize the manuscript and will be submitting it to the press in spring 2023. Last fall, the volume was awarded a [Publication Grant from the Society of Historians of East European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture \(SHERA\)](#)!
- Stemming from our Virtual Lecture and Conversation Series in 2022 titled, *From Kyivan Rus' to Modern Ukraine: Virtual Conversations on History, Art, and Cultural Heritage*, we have started working on an edited volume with our colleagues at [Dumbarton Oaks](#) and [Connected Central European Worlds, 1500-1700](#). Stay tuned! Details about this series of events can be accessed [here](#).

NoB Book Series



[Eastern European Visual Culture and Byzantium \(13th -17th c.\)](#) is an NoB book series that explores the art, architecture, and visual culture of regions of the Balkan Peninsula, the Carpathian Mountains, as well as early-modern Russia and Ruthenia between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries. We invite proposals for monographs, edited volumes, and conference proceedings. We are also interested in translations in English of medieval textual sources and/or of recent publications focusing on the medieval and early modern art, architecture, and visual culture of regions of Eastern Europe.

All suitable submissions will undergo a double blind peer review process. Please find the book proposal form [here](#).

NoB Resources:

On the NoB website, you can find links to image archives and other relevant resources, as well as a recently-updated bibliography. Please send us details for events you are organizing, publications, etc. to include on the NoB website and to share with our subscribers. You can find here [NoB Related Events](#) - send us your updates!

Follow us on **Twitter** @NorthofByzance, and encourage friends and colleagues to [subscribe](#) to NoB.

Finally, we thank our Research Assistant, Rileigh K. Clarke, who is an MA student in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture at Tufts University, expected to graduate in May 2023.

Best wishes to all,
Alessia and Alice
NoB co-founders