

Roundtable “Slavic Librarians with a Voice: From Publishing to Public Advocacy”
ASEEES Convention (Boston, MA November 21, 2024)

SLAVIC VOICES IN DIGITAL HUMANITIES :
UO LIBRARIAN, FACULTY, AND STUDENT COLLABORATION
ON AN INTERNET BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Prepared by Heggine Hakobyan with the assistance of Graduate Student Lina Turygina
University of Oregon Libraries and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies



St. Cyani The Flower

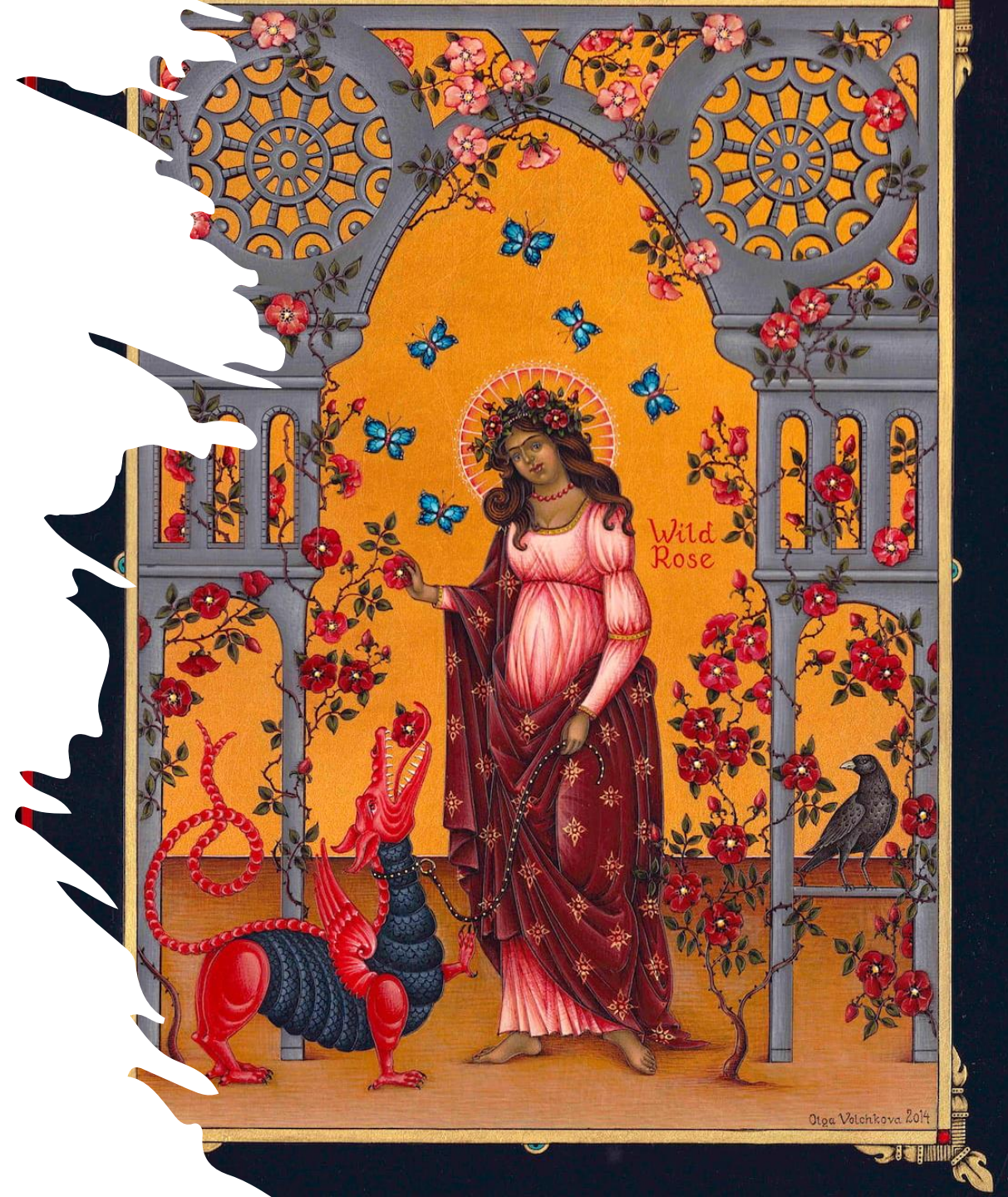
SIAN

Slavic Immigrant Artists in the
Northwest

<https://sian.uoregon.edu/>

Advocating for Diversity and Inclusion

Our goal is related to embracing equity, diversity, and inclusion in teaching and studies as well as in all library and academic services. We are trying to advocate for diverse collections and programs that reflect the experiences of marginalized communities, thereby supporting social justice and inclusivity.



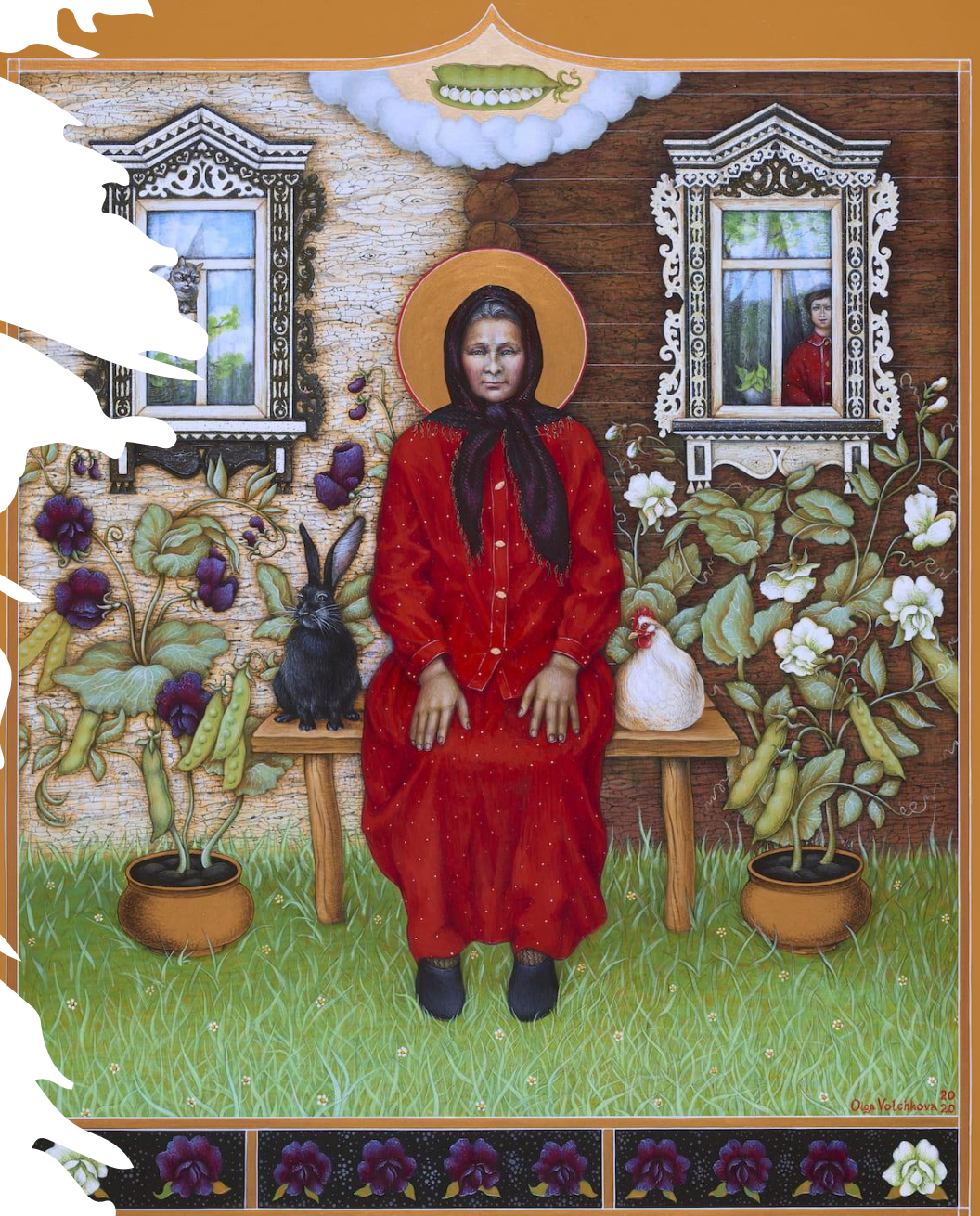
Utilizing Non-Traditional Media Outlets

We have chosen to utilize the university's blog platform and other media outlets to reach wider audiences. Thus, we serve as a multicultural hub promoting cultural diversity and mutual understanding.



Contributing to Internet Encyclopedia Project

Our students contribute to this internet encyclopedia project by creating and editing biographical articles related to Slavic and East European immigrant artists in the Northwest. This not only disseminates knowledge to a global audience but also ensures the accuracy and reliability of information available online.



Focusing on **Slavic Immigrant Artists in the Northwest (SIAN)** provides a fascinating perspective on the cultural contributions of immigrants to the region and offers students an opportunity to engage deeply with local history, art, and immigrant experiences. This type of project examines the histories, artistic expressions, creative works, and community impact of Slavic immigrants in the Northwestern United States, emphasizing cities like Eugene, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver which have notable East European communities.



Trifon Markov

Painter



Piotr Florczyk

Poet and Critic



Olga Zilberbourg

Writer



Julia
Nemirovskaya

Poet

Creating a digital humanities internship project focused on compiling biographies, interviewing artists, and generating galleries of their creative works offers students a unique way to engage with local cultural history and the arts community. This type of project allows students to develop research, interviewing, and digital presentation skills while contributing to the preservation and promotion of diverse artistic voices.

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Strategies and key elements of the SIAN internship

1.

**Research and
Preparation –
Local Artist
Identification –
Biographical
Research**

2.

**Interview
Process –
Training
Techniques for
Conducting
Interviews –
Consent and
Documentation**

3.

**Compiling
Digital
Galleries of
Artworks and
Creative
Authorship**

4.

**Building an
Open Access
Internet-Based
Biographical
Encyclopedia**

5.

**Skills
Development
and Reflection**

1.

Historical and Cultural Context of Slavic Immigration in the Northwest



Slavic Immigrant Artists in the Northwest (SIAN) is an internship program that was launched in January 2023 by Heghine Hakobyan and Jenifer Presto at the University of Oregon. SIAN is funded by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Lindholm Faculty Fund, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and the School of Global Studies and Languages. The program is devoted to the study of contemporary Northwest artists from Eastern Europe and Eurasia.

2.

Identifying and Collaborating with Slavic Immigrant Artists



Azle Malinao-Alvarez

SIAN Web Designer

Interactive Technology Consultant, UO Libraries

Azle designed the SIAN website and advised the directors on best practices in the Digital Humanities. She continues to provide invaluable technical support for the project.



Heghine Hakobyan

SIAN Co-Director

Associate Librarian for Slavic, German, and Scandinavian Studies

Heghine works with the research interns on sources for their artist profiles. She is also responsible for the Research Guide and the Bibliography on the Resources webpage.



Jenifer Presto

SIAN Co-Director

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and Russian

Jenifer runs the classes that the SIAN research interns take. She also works with Heghine on fundraising for the project and outreach to local artist communities.

3.

Compiling Biographies and Conducting Interviews



Trifon Markov

Contributed by Nessie Kurganova

Trifon Markov (1991-) is a visual artist based in Portland, OR. He grew up surrounded by art: his native town of Abramtsevo, just to the north of Moscow, was once a famous creative hub whose old estates, wooden dachas, and churches nestled in soft greenery still recall the vibrant artistic scene of the nineteenth century. Coming from a strong lineage of artists and art educators, Trifon inherited an eye for beauty and the urge to create. He started his formal artistic training early in school and got a degree from the Abramtsevo Industrial Art College. Though he focused on jewelry making in college, painting remains Trifon's favorite creative medium.

Trifon immigrated to the United States with his family in 2014 right after he graduated from art school, landing in Portland where the Markovs had relatives.

4.

Creating a Digital Gallery of Artworks



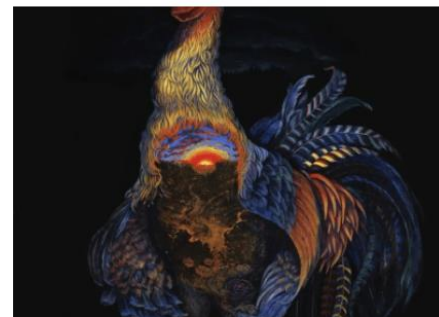
Veta Bakhtina

Contributed by Lilly Smith

Gallery



The Magic Traveling
Bunk Bed



Morning Crow



Golden Egg

5.

Exploring Slavic Contributions to Northwest Art and Culture

Research Guide

Here you will find a compilation of print and electronic resources on Digital Humanities projects in Slavic Studies across North America.

[View Research Guide](#)

Bibliography of Slavs in North America

Slavs, also known as Slavic peoples — historically located in Eastern and Southeastern Europe. In search of a better life due to various historical, political, economic, and social conditions, Slavs migrated from their homelands — thus extending their settlements across North Asia to the Pacific Ocean. This bibliography includes titles of books that reflect the history and culture of Slavs in the United States with a strong emphasis on Slavic immigrants' representation in the Northwest. It also provides a number of links to Slavic associations and organizations operating in the United States.

6.

Publishing an Internet Encyclopedia of Slavic Immigrant Artists in the Northwest



Wes Hurley
Film producer
and Writer



**Daniela
Ivanova-
Nyberg**
Choreographer,
Dancer, and
Poet



**Trifon
Markov**
Painter



**Julia
Nemirovskaya**
Poet



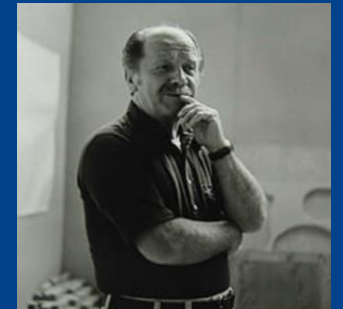
**Anton
Pavlenko**
Painter



Katya Tabakh
Illustrator,
Animator, and
Author



**Olga
Volchkova**
Painter



Jan Zach
Sculptor,
Painter, and
Draftsperson

7.

Reflection and Impact Assessment



John Adair

Research Intern

John is a photographer, videographer, and general storyteller. He is a University of Oregon student majoring in Journalism while working at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on campus. He has worked as a photojournalist, director of photography, film producer, and a social media manager with plans to do even more.

View Website: <https://www.johnadairphotographs.com/>



Walter Du Ruz Bender

Research Intern

Walter is a graduate student in the History Department. His research focuses on the Soviet Union, Central Asia, and Soviet policy. He is also interested in folk culture and new interpretations of traditional arts.



Sarabeth Johnson

Research Intern

Along with being a watercolorist herself, Sarabeth is a graduate student in the History Department and often researches topics related to gender, trauma, migration, and culture in Russian history. She looks forward to discovering how her experiences with this project will impact her future research.

This project offers students a hands-on approach to learning about Slavic heritage and immigrant contributions to the Northwest, deepening their cultural understanding and providing the community with an enduring digital resource.



Alina Turygina

Research Intern

Alina is a graduate student, pursuing a degree in Russophone literature in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. As a Russophone émigré researcher, she is interested in expanding her experience working with immigrant artists beyond literature into other art forms.



Nessie Kurganova

Research Intern

Nessie is a graduate student pursuing concurrent degrees in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and Language Teaching Studies. As a recent immigrant from Russia and a lover of all things beautiful, she is interested in lived experiences of immigration and their artistic reflections.