



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
THE AGE OF TOLSTOY AND TCHAIKOVSKY

THURSDAY 5 MAY

NICHOLAS FRIEND

To celebrate their shared 160th anniversaries, the National Portrait Gallery and the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow have agreed to exchange masterpieces. This gives us a rare opportunity to see a range of thrilling paintings of Russian artists, philosophers, composers, writers and actors spanning 1867-1914, highlighting an artistic golden age for the nation. Pushkin stares at a statue of Homer; Tchaikovsky glares over his brilliant tiepin; the tousle-haired Moussorgsky faces death in a military hospital; Tolstoy in his study works on the manuscript of 'What I Believe'; Dostoevsky clasps his knees in meditation; Chekhov pierces us through his pince-nez, and Ivan Morozov is pictured in front of Henri Matisse's Fruit and Bronze, a painting he had just acquired for his world-leading collection of modern French art. We use the exhibition as an opportunity to investigate the reasons for this major flowering of art and literature and music in Russia's Golden Age just before the guns of revolution exploded.

MEET 10:30 coffee for I am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild, Bloomsbury

ENDS 3:30pm National Portrait Gallery

COST £70 members, £ 80 non-members (£65 and £75 NPG members)