

Nicholas Roerich Museum

319 West 107th Str., New York, NY 10025

Museum hours: Tuesday–Sunday, 2–5 p.m.
Closed Mondays

phone: 212-864-7752 fax 212-864-7704

[Sunday, October 31, 2010 at 5 pm, Lisa Joy Sitjar will play Beethoven, Chopin and Schumann on the piano. The Museum provides a place for young musicians to perform for audiences, all on a voluntary and free basis.](#)

In New York, Nicholas and Helena Roerich founded the *Agni Yoga Society*, which espoused a living ethic encompassing and synthesizing the philosophies and religious teachings of all ages.

The cross-fertilization of the arts that Roerich promoted was evidence of his inclination to harmonize, bring together, and find correspondences between apparent conflicts or opposites in all areas of life. This was a hallmark of his thinking, and one sees it demonstrated in all the disciplines he explored.

Nicholas Roerich is known first and foremost as a Russian-born artist. His paintings, of which there are thousands around the world, explore

- the mythic origins
- the natural beauty
- the spiritual strivings of humanity and of the world.

Helena Roerich wrote to a friend in 1937 reflecting Nicholas' own point of view: "...woman should realize that she herself contains all forces, and the moment she shakes off the age-old hypnosis of her seemingly lawful subjugation and mental inferiority and occupies herself with a manifold education, she will create in collaboration with man a new and better world... Cosmos affirms the greatness of woman's creative principle. Woman is a personification of nature, and it is nature that teaches man, not man nature. Therefore, may all women realize the grandeur of their origin, and may they strive for knowledge." (published in Letters of Helena Roerich 1935-1939, vol. II)

The Museum displays approximately two hundred of the works of **Nicholas**, and keeps them

permanently on display, for visitors who come from around the world. For many of these visitors, the Museum is a destination of great importance; the paintings speak to them of their own inner yearnings and possible fulfillment. For them, Roerich's paintings are a kind of teaching--about spiritual development, about culture and its role in human life, and about opportunities for the achievement of peace in a fractious world. The Museum also keeps in print a number of books by and about Roerich and his life and work, and a substantial stock of postcards and reproductions of his paintings. These too are seen by many as more than just prints; they are hung in homes with a degree of appreciation that is not often given to such things.

CONCERTS AND POETRY READINGS

In addition to these functions, the Museum also maintains an active schedule of cultural activities. It was Roerich's fervent belief that the role of cultural development in the peace and evolution of the world is fundamental, and that it is therefore the responsibility of those who work in creative and cultural fields to strive always for that peace and evolution, and for those goals to be the chief impulses guiding their creative work. Information about these ideas is always available.

[To assist these efforts in some small way, the Museum provides a place for young musicians to perform for audiences, all on a voluntary and free basis.](#) Much of the audience is made up of those who ordinarily would not be able to afford attendance at concerts in major halls. The Museum also conducts an active and highly-regarded poetry series. This is freely available to the public, and helps to make the work of young poets better-known.

The Museum sustains an ongoing effort to spread public awareness of the intermingled roles of peace and culture, and the ways in which each sustains the other. Information and materials about **The Roerich Pact** and the **Banner of Peace** are always available. Throughout this century of wars and national struggles, the yearning of the public for ways of achieving peace has been great; the ideas of the Pact and the Banner provide a welcome answer to those yearnings.