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## Tretyakov Gallery: What it will be like in 2025

By Svetlana Yankina  
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SPEECH Architectural Bureau. A rendering of Tretyakov Gallery's new building on Kadashevskaya Embankment. Opening scheduled for 2020. / State Tretyakov Gallery, SPEECH Architectural Bureau.

Following a discussion with the professional community, the development concept for the State Tretyakov Gallery's has been approved by the Russian Ministry of Culture. The concept was developed by Event Communications together with AEA Consulting, the consulting firms chosen through an international competition

process. A renewed museum will be unveiled in 2025, however, the changes will become apparent much earlier: the plan implies a phased implementation. The 'program maximum' is to become the main museum of Russian art in Russia and the world.

“The key starting point is that we are a democratic museum, open to the visitors. It was not easy to formulate this, as there is an understanding of a museum as a sort of an ivory tower with a mission to preserve and research, while there were often no objectives to look outwards. This is a very important thesis that we will base our work on in coming years,” said Zelfira Tregulova, the Director of Tretyakov Gallery.

## New Buildings at Lavrushinsky Lane

The Tretyakov Gallery is planning on moving outwards not only figuratively, but literally. First, the inner yards of Lavrushinsky complex will help that transition as they will be merged with Lavrushinsky Lane itself. “We want to enliven the backyards and make them into a recreational space. After all, visiting a museum is hard work and it is necessary to take a break, get some fresh air, think it over, get a bite, and check your gadgets”, explains the Tretyakov’s Director. The outdoor space will host festivals and exhibitions, feature an updated navigation system, and information on the museum’s events. The opening of the outdoor space is planned for 2020. At the same time, the new building will be open to the public. As proposed by SPEECH architectural bureau, the windows of the new building are placed in such a way that they refer to the way the paintings were hung, close to each other, in the house of the museum’s founder, Pavel Tretyakov. With the opening of a new building, that will house main temporary exhibitions in place of the Krymsky Val location, and will offer access to the graphics department and restoration workshops, the functions of existing buildings will change significantly. The Engineering building will be transformed into an Education Center with workshops, media labs, reading rooms, while the depository, manuscripts department, archives, and children’s studio will be grouped into the Center for Collection Study by 2022. The activities at this Center, according to Zelfira Tregulova, would allow the museum to become a leader in this area for all

categories of audience – from the youngest ones to art experts, and the creation of dedicated functional zones itself allows for the “rationalization of a chaotic process that has been going on historically.” The main building in Lavrushinsky Lane will feature an improved entrance zone and permanent display. Particularly, there will be a regular rotation of artworks and unique curatorial projects complementing the permanent exhibition in the halls adjacent to those hosting the main collection. The construction work is planned for 2023-2024, and its step-by-step realization will allow the museum to remain open.

## Changes at Krymsky Val

Large-scale transformations are expected at Krymsky Val building that luckily escaped the demolition during the term of the previous city mayor, but still shares its spaces with the Central House of Artists, or the International Confederation of Artists' Unions. The reconstruction of facades and engineering systems will affect the whole building, and the interior changes will only take place in the museum. It will be possible to browse the open storage of the 20-21<sup>st</sup> Century art collection, should a visitor wish to explore in further detail the work of a particular artist. The concept outlines the principles of expanding the collection: the museum would mainly rely on gifts and artworks from private collections that would become available for long-term loans to be displayed at the museum. Upon ending the construction in 2023, the museum will move on to creating a public space between the building and Muzeon park. As in Lavrushinsky Lane, various outdoor events can take place here, including sculpture shows.

The idea of opening the museum to the city and the architectural development concept were put forward by architect and winner of Pritzker Prize, Rem Koolhaas. He has a special relationship with Russia – his OMA/AMO bureau redesigned the Seasons restaurant in Gorky Park for the Garage Museum and worked on the design project for the open storage of the Hermitage Museum's Library. “Koolhaas juxtaposed two buildings, showing that Krymsky Val is both the modern day and the look into the future. Preserving the wonderful architecture of Sukoyan and Sheverdyayev, he offered to make this a ‘pass-through’ building, open to air and

light. For Lavrushinsky, he calculated a formula of radical conservatism, that is to save the singularity of Tretyakov Gallery,” said Tregulova.

## New Museums as part of Tretyakov Gallery

A small merchant house where Pavel Tretyakov was born in 1832, and that has been miraculously preserved, located between Krymsky Val and Lavrushinsky Lane, will become a symbolic link between these two galleries. It currently requires a renovation, but once completed it will become the Collectors Club. One of the key ideas of the concept is to group all the buildings of the Tretyakov complex under one brand and show that Tretyakov Gallery is not one museum, but seven, including lesser known artists’ houses and apartments. The vision for these houses is changing too: the house of Victor Vasnetsov, the author of Tretyakov Gallery’s tower-styled facades, will be turned into the Center of Visual and Decorative Art. The apartment of his brother, Apollinary Vasnetsov, who created many views of old Moscow, is to become the Center of Moscow Studies, Anna Golubkina Studio – the Sculpture Center, and the house of Pavel Korin, the author of the Parting Russia, will be open to the public, mostly for the students of nearby universities and the visitors of Novodevichiy Convent.

Some of the concept’s ideas are already being realized. For example, the Mysteries of Old Paintings exhibition was complemented by public talks providing insights into the work of the museum’s staff; Krymsky Val gallery features new navigation signage, a café, and a museum shop. A joint project with the Moscow’s Metro supports the direction to make the museum more outward looking: soon, the reproductions of the paintings from the collection will be displayed at Park Kultury metro station.

“In parallel with working on the concept, we are relying on important principles that have been agreed on by all, and moving forward and alongside long-term strategic goals, we implement what is possible to do today with our current resources,” says Zelfira Tregulova, “We can’t afford to wait.”

Lavrushinsky Lane  
2017  
Zinaida Serebryakova

2018  
Anders Zorn  
Arkhip Kuindzhi

2019  
Vasiliy Polyonov  
Edvard Munch

2020  
Konstantin Somov

Krymsky Val

2016  
Masterpieces from Vatican's Pinacoteca. Bellini, Raphael, Caravaggio

2017  
"The Thaw: Looking for Joy or a Cultural Revolution"  
"Someone 1917". 100 of October's Revolution  
de Chirico. Eternity Nostalgia

2018  
Vasiliy Vereschagin. 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Vladimir Yakovlev  
Mikhail Larionov  
Ilya Kabakov  
El Lissitzky

2019  
20<sup>th</sup> Century: Russia and the World  
Ilya Repin. 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Museum of Visual Art. 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

2020  
Peredvizhniki. 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Mikhail Roginskiy

2021  
Mikhail Vrubel

2022  
"An unbreakable union of free republics". 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of USSR