



Invitation to the Press Conference

**The Kremlin. Divine Glory and Luxury of the Czars
13 February – 31 May 2004**

**The press conference will be held on 12th February 2004 at 11.00 a.m. in the
Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

“Only the Kremlin is higher than Moscow and only God is higher than the Kremlin” is a popular saying of earlier times. In its dual function as centre of political and religious power, the Moscow Kremlin has always been experienced by Russians as the centre of the empire, giving it its identity and, in that capacity, being perceived far beyond the frontiers of the state. Admired and feared, *the Kremlin* in its eventful 800-year history developed into the symbol of the Russian state, the Orthodox faith and Russian culture.

To gain a closer insight into the complex mythology of the Kremlin, to observe it from the perspective of the present, and to place it in a wider cultural context – that is the purpose of this exhibition. Against the background of defining events of Russian history, and closely interlaced with it, visitors are shown the highlights of the cultural development associated with the Moscow Kremlin from the twelfth to the nineteenth century, including the construction of this unique architectural ensemble, the artistic creations of the famous Kremlin workshops and the development of an independent aesthetics within Russian Orthodox sacred art.

Approximately 300 highly-prized exhibits of the highest quality comprising icon and portrait painting, goldwork, liturgical instruments, manuscripts, books and historical maps, textiles, weapons and armour (some of them exhibited for the first time) await the visitor to the exhibition. An elaborate CAD reconstruction aims to document the main building phases of the Moscow Kremlin (wooden Kremlin – white Kremlin – red Kremlin) and offer virtual tours through the historical architectural ensemble.

The exhibition project is being organised in close cooperation with the Moscow Kremlin State Museums, whose legendary collections will make up the core of the presentation. Several supplementary objects from well-known Russian and European museums are intended to give additional emphasis to the unique nature of the historical and cultural “location Kremlin”.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue with illustrations of all exhibited objects as well as written contributions by Russian and German authors. A supporting programme with films, music and literary events is intended to add to the presentation with additional aspects.

The exhibition will be opened for viewing by 10 a.m.. Please register by Fax (+49/228/9171-211). Extensive essays and photo material are available at the press office or www.bundeskunsthalle.de. Please direct all requests for interviews to this office.

We are looking forward to your visit.

Maja Majer-Wallat
Head of the Press Department