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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN ARTIST HAS SOLO EXHIBIT AT THE PUSHKIN MUSEUM

Bicentennial of Nikolai Gogol's Birth—a Unique Russian-American Cultural Event

The renowned Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow, Russia is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Nikolai Gogol with a solo exhibit by Boston-based artist Leon Steinmetz. Wide press coverage, publicity, and meetings with the artist are expected around this prestigious Russian-American cultural event entitled *Steinmetz—Contemplating Gogol* (December 1, 2009 – January 10, 2010).

This is only the second time in fifty years that an American artist has had a one-man show at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, a world-class art and cultural institution. The exhibit includes eighty-one works on paper, including drawings, watercolors, and collages ranging from the abstract to the figurative, inspired by Nikolai Gogol, one of Russia's most original and beloved writers (*The Overcoat*, *The Inspector General*, *Dead Souls*).

Coming on the heels of the Moscow business summit of July 7, 2009 attended by Presidents Obama and Medvedev, and 700 business leaders, the show is emblematic of the warming of relations between the two countries that will be manifest in cultural, commercial, and diplomatic cooperation in the future.

Steinmetz, whose work is represented in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and many private collections, is the winner of the First Prize at the Biennale of European Artists and Sculptors in Latina, Italy, and has had solo exhibits at many prestigious international galleries. His work can be viewed at the gallery at Gold Leaf Studios, Washington DC.

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