

## **Retrospective on CODART light in Russia and the digitization of Dutch and Flemish collections of regional museums in Russia**

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From September 26 till 28 2009 a seminar was held in Yasnaya Polyana, the former country estate of Lev Tolstoy, outside the city of Tula. The seminar was organized by Lia Gorter of the Stichting Cultuur Inventarisatie (Foundation for Cultural Inventory), Evgeni Surin of the Russian Association of Museum Professionals in collaboration with Floris Guntenaar of the CulturalHeritage.cc Foundation. The aim was to instruct eight Russian regional museums on how to use the collective database developed by the CulturalHeritage.cc Foundation to describe their own museum collections in order to make them more accessible on an international. The seminar was financed with considerable help from the Gemeenschappelijk Cultureel Erfgoed Fund (Common Cultural Heritage Fund). The eight museums, from Kaluga, Kursk, Perm, Rybinsk, Saratov, Tambov, Tula and Ulyanov, represented the first selection from a larger group of museums that will eventually participate in this project.

Each museum used its own collection of Dutch and Flemish art to work with during the symposium, thus creating the possibility to make this an extra CODART event. Gerdien Verschoor gave a presentation on CODART as an international network, followed by Natalya Markova, who spoke about her experiences with CODART congresses and study trips. Marina Raymakers and Eric Domela Nieuwenhuis gave presentations on the work of the Instituut Collectie Nederland and the transfer of knowledge and management of collections. In between the lectures and lessons the museum staff members – directors and/or curators - gave presentations of their collections. They could ask specific questions on attributions and they were instructed on how to use for instance the RKD databases. During these last sessions many interesting and hardly know paintings were shown.