

## **Curatorial Study Visit Moscow 2019**

16-18 September 2019

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The seminar in Moscow was a great opportunity for the Jewish Museum of Venice for different reasons: to see how the Jewish narrative can be articulated, along its history and relying on multimedia in order to be more public friendly. The human and professional relations built up between participants are another advantage offered by this kind of study meeting.

The special guided tour inside the museum was extremely interesting, especially as for all the details about multimedia installations: migration history, shtetl history, intellectual Fanconi café, Soviet Union, Holocaust and of the great patriotic war history. This peculiar setting was the opportunity for a debate among colleagues, that went on during the lunch break and dinner.

The bond between the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center and the Community Center is pretty tight. The interview with the Director of the cultural life and projects of the Museum gave us a clear understanding of the meaning, for a museum, to be connected with its Community. Having the opportunity to enjoy lunch inside the Community Center, give a glance into the intense daily Jewish life in Moscow.

All the tours were organized in a highly professional way. We enjoyed the guided tour as well through the Tretyakov Gallery, a contemporary art museum with a large Chagall section and also Soviet propaganda section. I personally found the visit to the Gulag Museum extremely interesting. It is an immaterial museum where a painful topic such as the political segregation is described in a delicate and efficacious way.

The last day we visited the small yet excellent Museum of the History of Jews in Russia, where the director explained how difficult it is to safe Jewish objects in the Russian territory, both for the extension of the land and for the lack of education in conservation. Curator Maria Kaspina shared her deep knowledge about each and every object displayed, guiding us throughout their history. She described the Judaica objects under both a social and artistic point of view, that was extremely helpful in understanding the peculiarities of the ancient decorative Russian art.

A special thanks to Liya Chechik, the Director of Public Programmes of the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, who organized the programme, the transfers and the visit to the Old Synagogues, where we learned about the existence of Mountain Jews with a different minyan and history.