

Tuesday 23 November 2010

Telegraph.co.uk – Art Sales - By Colin Gleadell

The Russians are coming, as they always do this time of year. Over 1900 Russian icons, works of art and paintings go on view in London at four auction houses from Thursday, worth an estimated 40 to 53 million pounds.

The total is a far cry from the almost 100 million pounds sales held three years ago, and while Impressionist and contemporary art sales have bounced back in that time, the Russian art revival has been much more cautious. This month it is not Sotheby's or Christie's which is waving the flag most optimistically, but relative newcomer, MacDougall's in St James's, which was founded in 2004, and offers four sales worth an estimated 17 to 24 million pounds. These include the highest estimated lot of the series, a rediscovered early masterpiece of 1860 by the landscape painter, Ivan Shishkin, for which a minimum 900,000 pounds is expected.