

Title: Imperial Mysticism: Encountering Nikolai Roerich's Art through Rabindranath Tagore's Poetry

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This paper complicates the coordinates of Russia's imperial relation to Asia through a little-examined mode of spectacularization. Nikolai Roerich, who entered the modernist scene through his famous set designs for *The Rite of Spring* and eventually became renowned for his mystical paintings of the Himalayas, attributed his series "Dreams of the East" to the poetry of India's first Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore, whom he read in a translation by Ivan Bunin and may have met in London. By tracing the circuits of their tremendously generative encounter across literature and the visual arts on the one hand and the Russian and British empires on the other, the paper proposes a new way of positioning Russian modernism as inter-Asian cultural production.