

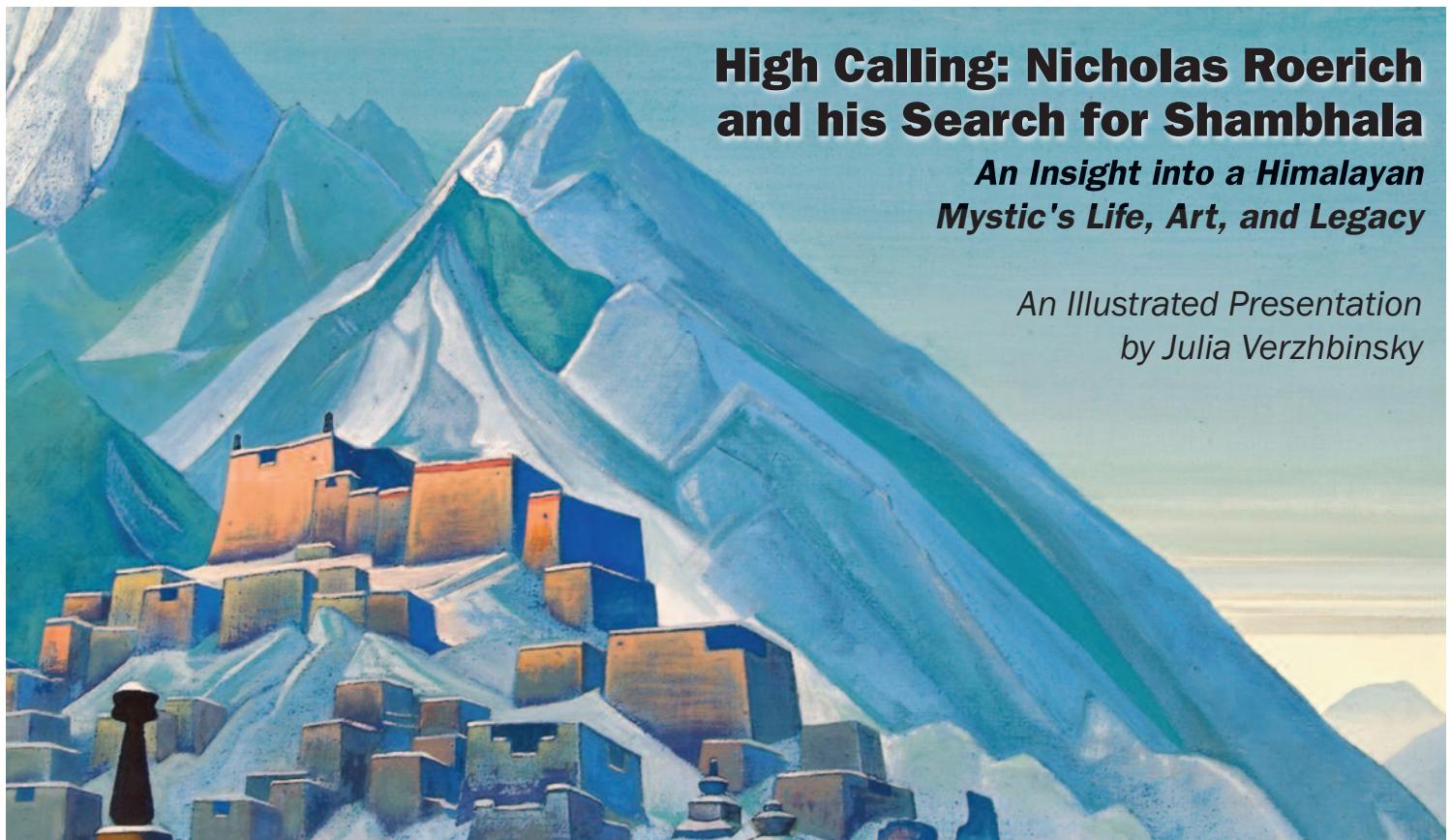
**SACHI, Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India and
The Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University**

In Association with CREEES, the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies,
and the Tibetan Studies Initiative, are pleased to present:

**High Calling: Nicholas Roerich
and his Search for Shambhala**

*An Insight into a Himalayan
Mystic's Life, Art, and Legacy*

*An Illustrated Presentation
by Julia Verzhbinsky*



*Portrait, Nicholas Roerich in Naggar, India, 1937,
by Svetoslav Roerich, Nicholas Roerich Museum, New York*



**The prolific Russian painter,
writer, philosopher and
humanist Nikolai Roerich
(1874-1947) was a great
believer in the power of art
and in the fundamental unity
of all cultures and civilizations.**

As an artist he left behind more than 7000 paintings and set designs. He was an author of near 30 books and countless essays, articles, and travel diaries. His writings, like his paintings, reflected his constant inner search for universal truth. His archeological findings contributed to the study of migration patterns in Russia, Central Asia and the Himalayas. He established and led numerous art schools, international cultural organizations and scientific institutes. His humanitarian efforts, especially his Roerich

continued on back page

*"Tibet", Himalayas, 1933, by Nicholas Roerich, tempera on canvas,
Nicholas Roerich Museum, New York*

**Wednesday, April 1
6.00 p.m.**

History Building 200
Room 30, Main Quad
Stanford University

Free and Open to the Public

*Recommended parking around the Oval
and surrounding parking lots.*

**For inquiries:
Tel. 650-918-6335
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Peace Pact, signed by FDR and 35 other nations, earned him two nominations for The Nobel Peace Prize.

His prominent admirers included Tolstoy, Diaghilev, Herbert Hoover, Einstein, George Bernard Shaw, Tagore and Nehru, among others.

For all of Roerich's appreciation for Western culture, he was most attracted to the spiritual and philosophical teachings of India and Tibet. While seeking common origin between the people of Russia and India, he was also enchanted by the Tibetan tale of Shambhala, the long-awaited realization of paradise on Earth.

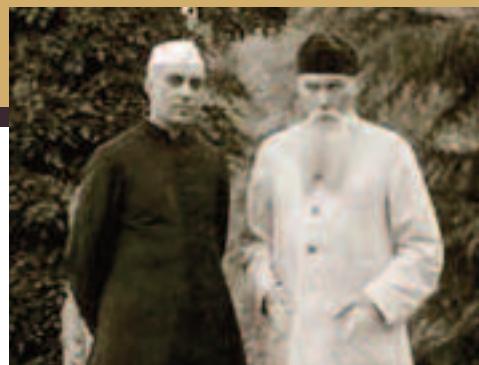
The lecture will transport viewers from Roerich's childhood in the family estate near St. Petersburg, to Diaghilev's Ballet Russes, to Chicago and New York, to his home in Kulu Valley in Himachal Pradesh, India, to Mongolia and to the peaks of the Himalaya and Altai mountains. From being a devotee of the arts in his beloved Russia to becoming a sage in his beloved India, Nicholas Roerich followed a calling to discover profound truths about humanity. Fascinated by the ideals of the East, he continued to live and work in India where he was drawn to the Vedanta teachings of Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, and found beauty in the poetic writings of Rabindranath Tagore.

The talk will also cover controversies surrounding Roerich that continue to this day. His relationship with Soviet authorities and his Communist inclinations are a source of intense debate in the post-Soviet reality of today. These debates are intensified by renewed interest in Russia in eastern religion and philosophies, in particular in Buddhism, and in "Agni Yoga", developed by Roerich and his wife Helena—the system of spiritual practice, influenced by the Theosophical Society of Madame Blavatsky.



"The Heavenly Queen" fresco in the Church of Holy Spirit, Talashkino, Russia, 1912 by Nicholas Roerich, Photograph, International Centre of the Roerichs, Moscow, Russia

Jawaharlal Nehru and Nicholas Roerich



Jawaharlal Nehru's Tribute to Nicholas Roerich

"When I think of Nicholas Roerich I am astounded at the scope and abundance of his activities and creative genius. A great artist, a great scholar and writer, archaeologist and explorer, he touched and lighted up so many aspects of human endeavour. The very quantity is stupendous – thousands of paintings and each one of them a great work of art. When you look at these paintings, so many of them of the Himalayas, you seem to catch the spirit of those great mountains which have towered over the Indian plain and been our sentinels for ages past. They remind us of so much in our history, our thought, our cultural and spiritual heritage so much not merely of the India of the past, but of something that is permanent and eternal about India, that we cannot help feeling a great sense of indebtedness to Nicholas Roerich who has enshrined that spirit in these magnificent canvases."

*Nicholas Roerich Memorial Exhibition,
December, 1947 – New Delhi*

Julia Verzhbinsky was born in St. Petersburg, Russia.



She graduated from Leningrad State University and worked as a research scholar at the Laboratory of Applied Mathematics headed by renowned mathematicians Solomon Mikhlin and Vladimir Mazya. Julia and her family moved to the United States in 1978.

In the US Julia worked as a senior research scholar at Bell Laboratories, New Jersey and at the University of California, San Francisco. She joined the Asian Art Museum docent program on retirement and continues to serve as an active docent. Julia's main interests lie in exploring cultural and artistic connections between Russia and Asia from mid-19th century on.