

Ukrainian Art

Yes, we are going there

Part One: Folk Art

Overview

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X03vmgsRLfA>



Petrykivka Painting

The people of the village of Petrykivka decorate their living quarters, household belongings and musical instruments with a style of ornamental painting that is characterized by fantastic flowers and other natural elements, based on careful observation of the local flora and fauna. This art is rich in symbolism: the rooster stands for fire and spiritual awakening, while birds represent light, harmony and happiness. In folk belief, the paintings protect people from sorrow and evil. Local people, and in particular women of all ages, are involved in this folk art tradition. Every family has at least one practitioner, making decorative painting an integral part of daily existence in the community. The painting traditions, including the symbolism of the ornamental elements, are transferred, renewed and enhanced from one generation to another. Local schools at all levels, from pre-school to college, teach the fundamentals of Petrykivka decorative painting, with all children given the opportunity to study it. The community willingly teaches its skills and know-how to anyone who shows an interest. The tradition of decorative and applied arts contributes to the renewal of historical and spiritual memory and defines the identity of the entire community.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJnJtu14os8>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNsfNjplX7Y> (short)





Ivana Kupala

The day is a celebration of the birth of John the Baptist – or Ivan in the Slavic world, celebrated in conjunction with the summer solstice. In pre-Christian times, this symbolised the birth of the summer sun – Kupala, and thus ended the domination of the spring sun – Yarilo. During this time, the days are longer, the nights shorter. Rumour has it that the shortest night of the year is demonic, and only dancing and festivities can ward off the evil spirits. I guess you could call this holiday Slavic Halloween: by merging Christian and pagan traditions, the feast of Ivana Kupala was formed.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CW3u-iWn8rw>





Vyshyvanka (Ukrainian Embroidery)

Vyshyvanka (Ukrainian: ВИШИВА́НКА [\[ʋɪʃɪ'ʋɔnke\]](#) or ВИШІ́ВАНКА [\[ʋɪ'ʃɪʋenke\]](#); ^[1] Belarusian: ВЫШЫВАНКА, romanized: *vyšyvánka*) is a casual name for the embroidered shirt in Ukrainian ^{[2][3][4][5]} and Belarusian ^{[6][7][8]} national costumes. Ukrainian vyshyvanka is distinguished by local embroidery features specific to Ukrainian embroidery. Vyshyvanka is not present in the traditional Russian women's costume with the sarafan consisting of a long full skirt hanging just below the arms with straps or an extremely abbreviated bodice that secures it over the shoulders. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waNtDHEKklc> (use this)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTSgh8iTPuM>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDqrAYSdkx4>







Rushyk

A **rushnyk** or **rushnik** ([Russian](#): рушник, ручник, [Ukrainian](#): [рушник](#), [Belarusian](#): [ручнік](#), ručnik, [Rusyn](#): ручник) is a ritual cloth embroidered with [symbols](#) and [cryptograms](#) of the ancient world.^[1] They have been used in sacred [Eastern Slavic](#) rituals, religious services and ceremonial events such as [weddings](#) and [funerals](#).^[2] Each region has its own designs and patterns with hidden meaning, passed down from generation to generation and studied by [ethnographers](#).

There are many rushnyk collections in ethnographic museums. In [Ukraine](#), the Rushnyk Museum is located in [Pereiaslav](#), Ukraine as part of The Museum of Folk Architecture and Way of Life of Central [Naddnipryanshchyna](#). A Russian rushnik collection is housed at the [Hermitage Museum](#).



Olha Piliuhina: Ukrainian Tapestry

The best traditions of Ukrainian carpet, specific traits of Ukrainian Baroque, modern subjects and plenty of colors and emotions. All this is about the personal exhibition of tapestries called "Reflections" by artist Olha Piliuhina. The exposition of 46 such carpets is based on the idea of the Tree of Life, which grows from time immemorial to the present. Our correspondents attended the exhibition at the Museum of Kyiv History.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHtbE7qDaTU>

KYIV

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EXHIBITION OF TAPESTRIES BY OLHA PILIUHINA



Hutsul Woolen Weaving

Yavoriv, a settlement in Hutsulshchyna region, has always been famous for the beautiful works of its artisans including the art of making lizhnyks — woolen blankets, normally with a pattern and fluffy texture on one or both sides, also known as “hutsulian blankets”. Lizhnyks are very common in everyday life, used to soften beds or benches, and for extra warmth in the wintertime.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ey3gxUuejJs&t=651s>







Hutsul “Crying” Pottery

Kosiv, a small town in the Carpathians, is home to ‘the Hutsul wonder’ – painted ceramics that, last year, made it onto the [UNESCO representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)

What makes this pottery so special? Firstly, its trademark tricolor palette: vibrant hues of green (like the towering forests), brown (the fertile land), and yellow (the sun), against a white background. “I call it a ‘wet-on-wet watercolor’. Some use a poetic term – ‘paint tears’ – to describe this method. It’s as if the kiln is crying inside, drawing patterns,” Hryniuk continues. Kosiv ceramics are mostly narrative in nature, depicting the customs of our predecessors. Animal figures and floral motifs also figure heavily.

“These motifs tell the stories of people’s everyday lives,” says Hryniuk. “We can find out what was going on 150 years ago. We see Austrian troops and Catholic churches dating back to the 19th century. The plots changed over time.”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4j4Wa76yRc>







Pysanky

A pysanka is a Ukrainian Easter egg, decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs using a wax-resist method. The word pysanka comes from the verb pysaty, "to write" or "to inscribe," as the designs are not painted on, but written with

beeswax. <https://www.njspotlightnews.org/video/creating-pysanky-the-unbelievable-art-behind-ukrainian-easter-eggs/>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pC3VMaMQZrE>



Assignment Suggestions...

- Create a repeating pattern based on ornaments or design an ornament
- Create an artwork that incorporates sunflowers
- Create an artwork using the Crying Pottery colors (weeping green plus brown and yellow as the predominant colors)
- Create an artwork that is predominantly black, white, and red like the embroidery.
- Incorporate a tree of life pattern in your art.