

Anna Nepyivoda

Ukraine



The Pysanka, made from a real egg, was traditionally made during the last week of Lent, the Holy Week, before Easter. Perfectly shaped eggs are chosen, and a Psyak stylus is filled with wax and applied to the white egg. The entire shell is covered with wax to be sealed, and then the egg is dyed using different colors in order from lightest to darkest color. Each intricately designed egg takes at least two hours to paint, and follows the tradition of the Hutsuls, an ethno-cultural group of Ukrainian highlanders from the Carpathian mountains.

Historically, each Carpathian village had its own patterns, its own symbols, meanings and rituals for decorating each egg. In Anna's native village, Bereziv, many of the Pysanka-makers moved away or passed on, and the tradition nearly died out in the 1980s. Anna collected old Bereziv Pysankas, and through the old Pysankas and information passed to her orally by village elders, was able to remake and retain the designs of her village. Now, she teaches Bereziv Pysanka designs to young artisans, passing on the tradition of her village and her heritage.

For Anna, **#artsaves** a centuries-old tradition that nearly died out in the 1980s.