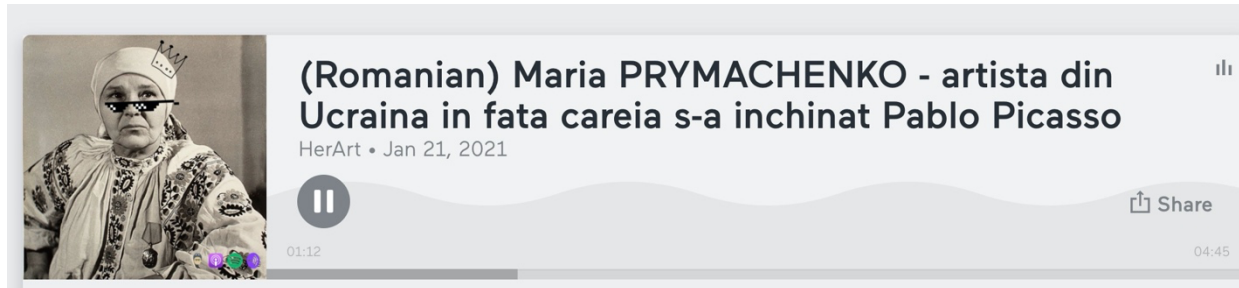


Maria Primachenko



[In English and Romanian on SPOTIFY, HerArt Podcast]. Season One | 2018 | Episode Four

Maria Primachenko, a woman from the Ukrainian village of Bolotnia, shows a successful blend of natural talent, an overwhelming desire to create beauty and a sensitive perception of reality. The complex world of her images springs both from her own imagination and from the entire system and content of Ukrainian folk poetry.

“During her childhood Maria was taken ill with polio, and this painful disease influenced the girl’s life. She grew a thoughtful and considerate person, having compassion for nature and every living thing. Images often came to the artist in dreams and later materialized in her compositions.

There are no professional secrets in Maria’s work: she paints on Whatman paper with factory-manufactured brushes and uses gouache and watercolors. She prefers gouache which gives a bright and thick decorative base with graphic contours. Apart from searches in color scheme, the artist strives to achieve expressive outlines and an effective rhythmical arrangement.

Maria Primachenko’s artworks caught the eye of Tetiana Floru. In 1936 she was invited to join the experimental workshop of the Museum of Ukrainian Fine Arts in Kyiv. She became a prolific artist and involved in drawing, embroidery and painting on ceramics. In 1936 she participated in an exhibition of folk art.

Her paintings usually depicted fabulous mythological beasts, with roots in folk legends as well as fairy-tales, and Ukrainian culture. Her works can be subdivided into thematic, symbolic and ornamental pieces. All of them are characterized by a subtle and fluent rhythmical arrangement. Her latest paintings usually impressed by their courageous decorativeness of form.

Maria Primachenko aspired to the world of fairy-tale and mystery: her birds, beasts and plants interact on her pictures just as harmoniously and naturally as they do in the real environment. The artist often used her beloved device of personification: she depicted fabulous animals with large eyes with a trim of eye-lashes. The constant struggle between good and evil penetrated all of Primachenko's artworks, where good always triumphed. In 1986 she produced artworks illustrating the accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Plant.

The painter resided all her life in Bolotnya, having no desire to leave. It was apparently Bolotnya with its picturesque surroundings, its lifestyle, customs and traditions that determined the directions of Primachenko's art. Moreover, Primachenko was also a poet, so she wrote captions to her own pictures. These captions were very melodious and easy to remember. Maria Primachenko was also well-known as an illustrator of children's books, she produced illustrations for *The Crane* and *The Stork Takes a Shower* by Mykhailo Stelmakh.

Maria Primachenko was an outstanding painter and amazing master of art of the 20th century. In 1936 won the first-class diploma when she participated in the exhibition of folk art. Her compositions were exhibited all over the former Soviet Union and abroad, including Poland, Bulgaria, France, and Canada. Besides, her albums were published widely all over the world.

To honor the artist the year 2009 was recognized Primachenko year by UNESCO. A small planet 14624 was given the name "Primachenko". Likhachev boulevard, the street in the center of Kyiv, was renamed to Primachenko boulevard."



Ukrainian Bull, Three Years Old, Went Walking Through the Woods and Gathers Strength, Український поліський бичок-третячок гуляє у лісі та силу збирає ,1983



May I Give This Ukrainian Bread to All People in This Big Wide World, 1982



May That Nuclear War Be Cursed!, 1978



The threat of War, Загроза війни, 1986



Wild Bull and Raven Are Friends, 1983



Our Army, Our Protectors



A Dove Has Spread Her Wings



TV presenter of the Rada channel Tatyana Goncharova said that the paintings of the legendary Ukrainian artist Maria Primachenko, which were kept in the museum in Ivankovo, destroyed by Russian invaders, were saved.

“Primachenko's works were taken home by the people of Ivankovo! They didn't burn down! Glory to the Ukrainians! We'll rebuild the museum!”, her message says. She does not specify exactly how many canvases she is talking about.

“I just heard on the news about the burned museum with paintings by the artist Maria Primacheko. Let me remind you of the course of events: on February 25, 2022, between 11.30 and 12.00, an enemy fighter flew over Ivankov. And for some reason decided to shoot at the premises of our museum. ... For those who do not know where it is: the central park of the village of Ivankov, Vyshgorodsky (Ivankovsky) district, Kiev region. Unfortunately, our village is currently under occupiers. The video was filmed an Ivankovo schoolboy who was nearby and saw the moment of the hit and fled to record the war crime of the occupier. Let's forgive him for the profanity, the child was shocked by what he saw,” he wrote.