

Lemko “Drop-Pull” Pysanky

with Marko Lyszyk

Supply Packet



Virtual Pysanka Demonstration Lemko “Drop-Pull” Pysanky

Learn about ancient symbols and legends, and make a Ukrainian pysanka using the drop-pull method traditionally used in the Lemko regions.



Guest Instructor:
Marko Lyszyk

ONLINE
Thursday, March 14, 2024
6:30 PM



UHEC arts programming and activities are made possible by funds from the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

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www.ukrhec.org/events



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Supply List:

- white egg (boiled)
- twig/pencil with eraser
- pin with a small rounded end
- matchstick, optional
- water
- Pre-mixed pysanka dye
- stove (or any other source of heat with a flat surface)
- metal container (ie. cleaned out tuna can)
- candle (preferably made out of beeswax) or beeswax puck
- paper towels & spoon(s)

Instructions:

1. Cut up the candle or beeswax puck into pieces and put them in the metal container.
2. Put the container with the candle pieces on the stove and set the temperature to high so that the wax can melt.
3. Stick the sharp end of a pin into the twig.
4. Once the wax is melted, dip the exposed end of the pin into the melted wax.
5. If the pattern is radial, it's recommended to place a dot to help establish where the center of the pattern will be.
6. Now the design can be made around this dot made in Step 5.
7. In order to make the traditional Lemko pull-drop line, position the pin where you want the "wide" part of the line to be. Then drag the pin towards the direction you want the end to be.
8. Since not a lot of wax can fit on the end of the pin, only draw one line at a time. If you wait too long without drawing the lines with the wax, simply dip the pin back into the melted wax to re-melt the wax.
9. When the design is finished, mix the dye with water and put the egg in the mixture.
10. The egg should remain in the mixture until the dye sticks to the egg (approximately 5 minutes).

PYSANKA SUPPLIES:

St. Andrew Bookstore (www.uocofusa.org/easter)

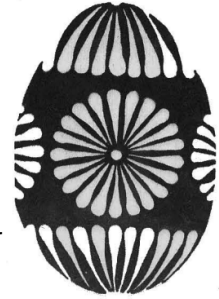
Ukrainian Gift Shop-Minneapolis (www.ukrainiangiftshop.com)

Ukrainian Easter Eggs (www.ukrainianeastereggs.store)

EGGcessories (Canada) (www.ukrainianeggcessories.com)

About the Lemko Pysanky:

The recognizable feature of Lemko style pysanky is that the patterns are made up of a series of tear-drop shaped lines. So where did the tear-drop shape concept come from? As legend has it, the Virgin Mary offered brightly colored eggs to Pontius Pilate as Christ was imprisoned by him. The Virgin Mary fell to her knees and pleaded for her son's life. When Pilate refused her plea, she began to weep in grief. Her tears fell on the eggs and washed away parts of the dye, and these washed away parts were the shape of her tears.



Solar symbol.

Starting on the Thursday before Easter, women and girls would make pysanky. This was a time when most chores were done, so that making pysanky and baking was all that remained in preparation for the holiday. While making pysanky, they would sing songs pertaining to Easter. Although designs could vary from village to village, common symbols were that of nature: the sun, stars, leaves and branches. The most common symbol was the sun.

Men and boys traditionally did not partake in making pysanky, and they would see them only when they were done. Among the Lemkos, pysanky represented well-being, health and happiness and they were given to friends, family and others. It was customary that if a household had a guest visit during the Easter period, they would give the guest a pysanka upon leaving. On the Monday after Easter, also referred to as "Wet Monday", boys would try (and most often succeed) splashing girls with water. However, if a girl didn't want to get splashed with water, she would give a nice-looking pysanka to the boy – if the boy accepted, the girl was safe.

Although today, the tool used to make the distinct tear-drop shaped lines is usually a pin attached to a stick, that was not always available in the past. In the old days, Lemkos would use a sharpened stick to apply the wax. Various sticks with different size points were used to provide the option of incorporating different size lines. Vegetables were used to produce dye. For example, onions were used to make brown dye while beets were used to make pink dye.

Tips/Tricks:

1. Farm eggs are better to work with as they tend to be harder than store-bought eggs.
2. If you want thicker lines, warm up the eggs.
3. Wash the eggs prior to applying the wax. This will remove the natural oil found on the eggs and by removing it, the wax and dye will stick better to the egg.

Links about Lemko style Pysanky:

Lemko pysanky tutorial on the YouTube channel "The American Lemko"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Dg0toUN2Hw>

Lemko pysanky history on the YouTube channel "Lemko TV"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsj8dy_Kd6w

Pictures of pysanky
https://www.pysanky.info/Lemko/Lemko_Home.html

Info about Lemko pysanky
https://www.lemko.org/art/jula/Jula_pysanky2013.pdf

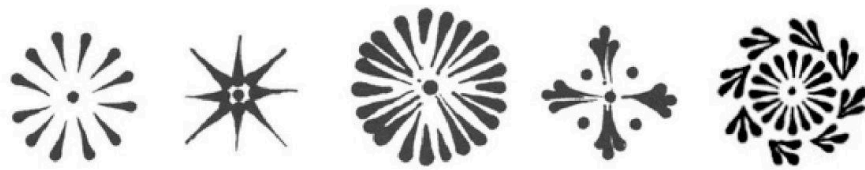
Examples:



Dots



Flowers, Crosses, Stars



Bands

