

Easter is one of the greatest holidays of Christianity, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the victory of good over evil, and the beginning of the spring awakening of nature. An integral part of this festive ritual is the pysanka painted egg – one of the oldest forms of Ukrainian folk painting, impressive through its elegance and the richness of its ornamental motifs.

The art of Easter egg painting dates back to ancient times, when the egg was a symbol of the birth of life, the universe and nature. With the adoption of Christianity, the pysanka acquired a new meaning – it became a symbol of the resurrection of Christ, while remaining a powerful protective amulet of the human life cycle. When pysankas were made, it was believed that they protected the home and family from negative influences.

The magic of creating pysankas combines skill and tradition. An egg as a symbol of life, beeswax as a symbol of eternity, ornaments formed by symbolic signs, thoughts during painting, and rituals that accompany this process are all part of the pysanka. A special tool called a pysachok in Ukrainian is used to apply wax, making sure that the individual parts of the ornament are painted and protected with wax in sequence.

Commemorative coin

EASTER JOY. THE PYSANKA



Later, the wax layers are removed to reveal a multi-layered ornament. Each color and symbol on a pysanka has a deep meaning: red symbolizes love and life, yellow symbolizes wealth and the sun, green symbolizes hope and rebirth, and black symbolizes memory and fertility. Geometric shapes, such as a cross and a triangle, stand for harmony, and plant motifs, such as the tree of life, convey the continuity of life. The uniqueness of the art of pysanka making also lies in the fact that different regions of Ukraine have developed their own styles of painting: from floral compositions in the Sokal region to animal motifs in the Hutsul region.

Today, pysanka making continues to evolve, being enriched with innovative themes and techniques. Artists add modern motifs to create pysankas with national symbols and natural ornaments. In December 2024, the element "Pysanka: Ukrainian tradition and the art of decorating eggs" was officially recognized by UNESCO as a part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

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EASTER JOY. THE PYSANKA

NATIONAL BANK OF UKRAINE



Issue date
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Metal
silver

Diameter
38.6 mm

Quality
special uncirculated

Edge
smooth with incised inscriptions

Mintage
up to 15,000

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