

THE SYMBOLISM OF UKRAINIAN PYSANKY

Ukrainians today are one of the few groups of people who still strongly adhere to many of the ancient traditions associated with the art of Pysanka, embracing its multifaceted imagery. Ukrainian eggs embody a myriad of symbols, found both the design and the color.

Everyday images are used to convey earthly concepts, emotions and profound spiritual notions. Below are a few examples:

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| 0Windmills signify happiness. | 0Birds represent the presence of God, innocent and purity. | 0Waves represent harmony. Baskets signify knowledge and motherhood as a giver of life. |
| 0Pine needles signify eternal life. | 0Diamonds represent immortality. | 0Roosters signify a rich family life with many children. |
| 0Waves represent immortality. | 0The star signifies the birth of Christ - God's love of man. | 0Horses signify wealth and prosperity. |
| 0Floral motifs symbolize wisdom, beauty and elegance. | 0Roses symbolize Christ's humanity. | 0Flowers represent beauty and elegance. |
| 0Fish represent Christ and or Christianity. | 0Door and stairs symbolize an invitation to reach for God. | 0Wheat signifies a bountiful harvest. |
| 0Apples and plums signify health and wisdom. | 0Spirals symbolize immortality. | 0Trees symbolize strength. |
| 0Crosses are symbols of life and of Christian faith. | | |

Similarly, the color and color combinations used in the eggs' designs are essential to the meaning of the egg:

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| 0WHITE: Purity, light, rejoicing, virginity. | 0GREEN: Growth power of plants, spring. | 0RED and WHITE: Respect, protection from evil powers. |
| 0BLACK: Reverence Center of the Earth, eternity, absolute. | 0ORANGE: Power, endurance, everlasting, sun, ambition. | 0BLACK and WHITE: Mourning and respect to spirits. |
| 0YELLOW: Wealth, prosperity, sun, stars, moon, harvest, warmth, perpetuation of the family, growth, power of the plants Spring. | 0RED: Love, life, happiness, hope, passion blood, fire ministry of the church. | 0FOUR or MORE COLOLRS TOGETHER: Family happiness, peace and love. |
| 0BROWN: Mother Earth, harvest, generosity. | 0PINK: Success, contentment. | 0Customarily, no more than five colors are used on a Pysanka. |
| | 0BLUE: Sky, air, good health, truth, fidelity. | |