Maria Prymachenko was a Ukrainian folk painter born in 1909 and passed away in 1997.

Prymachenko was a self taught artist who worked in painting, embroidery, and ceramics.

Prymachenko's artwork became known for its colorful imagery depicting scenes of flora and fauna, alongside human-esk figures, often involving themes of peace and unity.

Prymachenko attended school for only four years before contracting polio at the age of 7. The illness led to a physical impairment which impacted both her life and her art.

Images had often appeared in Prymachenko's dreams that she later materialized in her artwork.

Prymachenko never accepted money for her paintings; she always gifted them to friends and neighbours.

Prymachenko's art interprets fabulous mythological creatures and takes its roots in folk legends and fairy tales, nourished by the real life and culture of the Ukrainian people.

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Art became a significant part of Prymachenko's recovery with polio. Art was her sanctuary through her hard times, and thus began her creations of vibrant works that reflected her experiences and heritage.

The preservation efforts of her artwork has become particularly significant given the current conflicts affecting Ukraine, which have threatened cultural heritage. In 2022 invading Russian forces destroyed The Ivankiv Historical and Local History Museum, located northwest of the capital city Kyiv, was burnt to the ground, along with 25 works by Prymachenko.

Fun Facts!

Prymachenko was awarded the Taras Shevchenko National Prize of Ukraine in 1966. This award is the highest state prize of Ukraine for works of culture and arts.

A street in Kyiv, Ukraine and a minor planet are both named after her.

Mariya's son Fedir, as well as her grandchildren Peter and Ivan, also became artists.