

## "Ukrainian Pysanky: Then & Now"



Писанки: Колись і Тепер  
Ukrainian Pysanky:  
Traditional & Beaded Designs

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### **About the presentation:**

This presentation was created on the heels of Maria's article "Beaded Pysanky Eggs" for *A Needle Pulling Thread*, Spring 2011, pgs. 90-93.

"Pysanky", batik-style Easter eggs, are inherently Ukrainian. Purists shudder at the beaded "pysanka's" very existence. Some artists have the nerve to use beads to decorate eggs instead of the writing ("pysaty") them with a stylus and beeswax in the wax-resist method. Beaders often refer to traditional motifs and designs for inspiration.

The first portion of the presentation is about traditional "pysanky". Olden simpler "pysanky" designs were meticulously reproduced by artist Tanya Osadca, OH, and show regional differences. Symbols and their meanings were very important. Artist's eggs with religious themes were often painted to get the subtle features of Christ or Madonna. Visit the Pysanka Museum in Kolomyya and see their theme boards. NEW! See how pysanky are restored in a very daring process. Visit the Pysanka Museum in Reading, PA and see intricate eggs in the "North American" style. Marvel at etched pysanky first seen at the XIXth Hutsul Festival in Kosiv, as well as ones created by a young Toronto artist.

When beaders attempt to reproduce a "pysanka", the shape and size of beads dictate how closely or far apart they can be placed on the egg. The traditional inspiration becomes a stylized pattern. It's a challenge to apply the beads onto the egg. You can glue them, imbed beads into wax or beadweave around the egg. NEW!! See children bead around the egg to its final envelopment by beads. Admire the ingenuity.

Maria photographed each "pysanka" from many angles. Some slides show two or three views of single eggs for a better appreciation of the design. An egg-ceptional experience!

### **Presentations:**

- "Ukrainian Day", Crafter's Cupboard, Guelph, ON – Apr 2011
- "Pysanky: Then & Now", UCWLC Toronto Eparchy Museum, Toronto – Feb 2012
- "Pysanky Workshop", St. Vladimir Institute, Toronto, ON – Mar 2012

### **Speaker:**

Maria Rypan is a worldwide respected bead artist, researcher and recognized expert on "gerdany", Ukrainian-style of beading and folk arts. <http://www.rypandesigns.com>