

# Hands-On Art



## Workshops that Work

Looking for a unique way to energize your class? Your students' eyes will sparkle as they discover the magic of the colourful eggs known as "Pysanky" in Ukrainian folk-art. This fascinating workshop is a teacher's dream! Brimming with innovative ideas and sensational teaching aids, this valuable hands-on experience teaches not only technique and tradition, but also history and culture. A Ukrainian Pysanky workshop integrates with multicultural and language arts, social studies, math and science.

A must for students in all grade levels K to 12, workshops are designed to accommodate up to 35 students. You provide the classroom—Joan will take care of everything else.

## About Joan Brander

Joan Brander, author of Pysanky on Paper: An Activity Book for Children, is a skilled artist with over 35 years experience in creating the colorful eggs known as Pysanky in Ukrainian folk art. As a child in Saskatchewan she learned the age-old tradition that was passed down through the generations from her grandmother whom she called "Baba". Joan went on to study at Seneca College of Arts and Technology in Toronto, Ontario.

Responding to the growing interest in this popular art-form, in 1991 Joan began giving workshops in schools, community centres and special interest events. Joan is editor of **EGGS-aminer**, a newsletter dedicated to Pysanky.

Joan's affordable kits, teaching aids and Pysanky supplies are available for sale and rent through her company **Baba's Beeswax**. Joan didn't have to look far to find an ideal name for her enterprise: **Baba** because she was her inspiration and teacher — **Beeswax** because of its significance to the technique.

Joan now resides with her husband and son, Jacob, in Richmond, British Columbia, near historic Steveston Village. She is proud of preserving one of the great traditions of all time - Pysanky.

## Designed for Busy Teachers

- ✓ all materials are provided
- ✓ each student has his/her own tools
- ✓ technique is explained and demonstrated in a simple manner
- ✓ easy, well thought out, step-by-step instructions
- ✓ teaching aids (visual, auditory, sensory, etc.)
- ✓ creativity is encouraged with examples and choices
- ✓ children use eggs that have been emptied and rinsed out
- ✓ Pysanky are varnished which adds to their strength and beauty

## What People Are Saying . . . .

*"Joan creates a tone that is calm, friendly and focused on the task at hand. She is clear in her expectations for behaviour thus ensuring that the activity can be handled safely and that children can be successful. She is obviously an expert in this artform and can problem solve with a child when an error has been made."*

Arlene Racicot  
Principal, Rideau Park Elementary School

*"Joan brought in charts and gave easy step-by-step instructions. Her high level of experience was evident when it came to solving problems and showing the children how to use their tools safely."*

Dawn Lessoway  
Teacher, Kilgour Elementary School

*"Joan was truly sensitive to the needs of her audience, encouraging questions and creativity; participants were confident they could create a beautiful product under her wonderful tutelage. Her workshop is outstanding, helping to foster respect for diverse cultural traditions in a pluralistic society."*

Jenny Coyle  
Teacher, Palmer Secondary School

*"After the beeswax was melted, we drew our own egg. We drew pine needles and flowers and dots. We put the egg in the dyes."*

Shaelee Gummer and Kyleen Toyne, age 7  
Students, Annieville Elementary School



HANDS-ON

teachers can't stop talking about this one!



## How Pysanky are Made

Empty eggshells are decorated with motifs in the technique known as "wax resist". Traditional symbols, designs and patterns are applied with melted beeswax using a tool called a *kistka*. Eggs are dipped into successively darker dye baths. At the end of the process the beeswax is removed off to reveal a dazzling display of colour. Finally, the Pysanky are varnished to protect the shell and to prevent the colours from fading.

## For information about Pysanky Workshops Contact:

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## Half Day Workshop at a Glance

- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| • Introduction              | 5 min     |
| • video presentation        | 15 min    |
| • description of tools      | 5 min     |
| • demonstration/safety      | 10-15 min |
| • technique                 | 30-40 min |
| • recess                    | 20 min    |
| • technique                 | 40-60 min |
| • conclusion (legends, Q&A) | balance   |

Let Joan Brander take the "work out of workshops" for you.