

Ukrainian Artists: Mariia Pryimachenko and Kateryna Bilokur

Level: Intermediate

1 Look at the paintings by Kateryna Bilokur and Mariia Pryimachenko. Describe them using the words in the box. You don't need to use all the words.

naive bright primitive colourful
attractive surreal impressionistic realistic
unique individual subdued graphic
detailed complex traditional

The paintings by Kateryna Bilokur



The paintings by Mariia Pryimachenko



2 Read the text. Write three similarities between the women and two differences.

Creative lives

You might expect that Ukrainian's many successful artists were taught in one of the country's art school. But for **Mariia Pryimachenko** and **Kateryna Bilokur**, art was their passion. Their need to paint led to their success, not any formal training. Both women were born around the turn of the twentieth century.



Mariia Pryimachenko (1908–1997) was born in Bolotnia in Kyiv oblast. Although she spent most of her life in this village, she became an important artist who is still recognized internationally.

Her work has been exhibited in many countries in Europe, North America and Asia. Pablo Picasso was fascinated by her work when he saw it at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1937.

Mariia was lucky to come from a creative family. Both her parents were talented at crafts. Her father was a carpenter and her mother created beautiful pieces of embroidery.

In addition to having natural skills, Mariia was influenced by natural environment and the culture of the area she lived in. These provided the themes for a lot of her work. Because Mariia suffered from polio as a child she couldn't take part in many of the activities other people did. This meant she had a lot of time to develop her artistic skills. Her style has often been described as naive and primitive, but also very individual. She used bright colours and created surrealist compositions inspired by folk songs, fairy tales and her own imagination.



Like Mariia Pryimachenko, **Kateryna Bilokur** (1900–1961) lived in a village (Bohdanivka) and was influenced by nature. Pablo Picasso recognised her talent. However, Kateryna's parents weren't artistic and didn't understand their daughter's interest in art. Kateryna dreamed of being a painter and, in spite of her parent's objections, she studied plants and their structure and taught herself how to paint them.

Her work is very different from Mariia Pryimachenko's. Kateryna's style is more detailed and she painted in a very individualistic way. Her first exhibitions were in Poltava and Kyiv in 1940–41, where she received good reviews. Unfortunately a lot of these paintings were destroyed during the Second World War. Following the war she exhibited in Moscow, where her work was also received. However, it was not until after she died that she became really famous. There is now a street named after her in Kyiv and prize in her name for talented, up-and-coming artists.

Similarities	Differences
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	

3 Read the text again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Mariia Pryimachenko and Kateryna Bilokur went to art school. ____
- 2 They both grew up in the same village. ____
- 3 Pablo Picasso was aware of Mariia's work. ____
- 4 Mariia's parents were artistic. ____
- 5 Both women looked to nature for inspiration. ____
- 6 Kateryna was encouraged by her parents. ____
- 7 Most people have seen Kateryna's early work. ____
- 8 Kateryna is more famous now than when she was alive. ____

4 Complete the sentences with adjectives and prepositions. Use the underlined examples in the text to help you.

- 1 I am _____ science. I read a lot about it.
- 2 Children are often _____ adverts on TV.
- 3 She has always _____ becoming a writer.
- 4 He was _____ his father, who was also called Paul.
- 5 I was _____ the view and decided to paint a picture.
- 6 My brother is very _____ music. He will probably be a professional musician.

Vocabulary

<p><i>Exercise 1</i></p> <p>naive [naɪ'vi:v] наївний bright [braɪt] яскравий primitive ['prɪmɪtɪv] примітивний colourful ['klɒləfʊl] барвистий, яскравий attractive [ə'træktɪv] притягальний, привабливий surreal [sə'ri:əl] сюрреалістичний, нереальний impressionistic [ɪm,preʃə'nɪstɪk] імпресіоністський realistic [riə'lɪstɪk] реалістичний unique [ju:'ni:k] унікальний individual [ˌɪndɪ'vɪdʒuəl] індивідуальний subdued [seb'dju:d] пом'якшений; приглушений graphic ['græfɪk] графічний detailed ['di:teɪld] детальний complex ['kɒmpleks] складний traditional [trə'dɪʃənəl] традиційний</p>	<p>Mariia Pryimachenko Марія Приймаченко recognize ['rekəɡnaɪz] визнавати exhibit [ɪɡ'zɪbɪt] виставляти, експонувати Asia ['eɪʃə] Азія fascinated ['fæsɪneɪtɪd] зачарований, захоплений exhibition [ˌeksɪ'bɪʃən] виставка craft [kra:ft] ремесло, майстерність carpenter ['kɑ:pəntə] тесля; столяр embroidery [ɪm'brɔɪdəri] вишивка natural ['nætʃərəl] природний skill [skɪl] таланти, дар, здібності influenced ['ɪnfluənst] під впливом environment [ɪn'vaɪərənmənt] середовище, оточення area ['eəriə] район provide [prə'vaɪd] постачати; надавати theme[θi:m] тема suffer ['sʌfə] страждати polio ['pəʊliəʊ] поліомієліт mean [mi:n] (<i>meant</i> [ment]) значити develop [dɪ'veləp] розвивати artistic [ɑ:'tɪstɪk] артистичний</p>	<p>surrealist [sə'ri:əlɪst] сюрреаліст inspired [ɪn'spaɪəd] натхненний folk song [fəʊk] [sɒŋ] народна пісня fairy tale ['feəri] [teɪl] казка imagination [ɪ,mædʒɪ'neɪʃən] уява, фантазія</p> <p>Kateryna Bilokur Катерина Білокур in spite of незважаючи на objection [əb'dʒekʃ(ə)n] заперечення plant [plɑ:nt] рослина structure ['strʌktʃə] структура receive[rɪ'si:v] отримувати review[rɪ'vju:] рецензія, відгук unfortunately [ʌn'fɔ:tʃənətli] на жаль painting ['peɪntɪŋ] картина destroy [dɪ'strɔɪ] руйнувати</p>
<p><i>Exercise 2</i></p> <p>creative [kri'eɪtɪv] творчий, креативний successful [sək'sesfʊl] успішний passion ['pæʃən] пристрасть success [sək'ses] успіх</p>		<p><i>Exercise 3</i></p> <p>aware [ə'weə] усвідомлюючий (<i>що-небудь</i>) , який знає (<i>що-небудь</i>) encourage [ɪn'klɪdʒ] підбадьорювати; вселяти мужність</p>

Answer Keys

2 (Possible answers)

Similarities

- 1 Art was their passion.
- 2 Both women were born around the turn of the twentieth century.
- 3 Pablo Picasso was fascinated by their work.

Differences

- 1 Mariia was lucky to come from a creative family. Both her parents were talented at crafts.
- 1 Kateryna's parents weren't artistic and didn't understand their daughter's interest in art
- 2 Mariia Pryimachenko became an important artist who is still recognized internationally.
- 2 It was not until after she died that Kateryna Bilokur became really famous.

3 1 F; 2 F; 3 T; 4 T; 5 T; 6 F; 7 F

4 1 fascinated; 2 influenced by; 3 dreamed of; 4 named after; 5 inspired by; 6 talented at