

present

## A World of Art PROJECTS FOR KIDS



### Clay Figures

Homemade clay figures from Dymkovo, Russia depict townspeople & animals. Red clay is formed into figures, fired, & whitened with chalk. Then artisans paint bright colored patterns on fancy ladies, circus figures & proud chickens. Near Gzel, Russia, artisans form white porcelain clay into whimsical blue and white figures, teapots, & dishes.

- ◆ Pinch clay ball into fanciful figure.
- ◆ Pinch out legs & arms gently smoothing surface with fingertips.
- ◆ To add extra clay pieces, score joining sides with scratched lines. Press together & smooth.
  - ◆ Dry, kiln fire & paint your creations. Use bright, varied Dymkovo colors or the blue & white of Gzel ceramics.

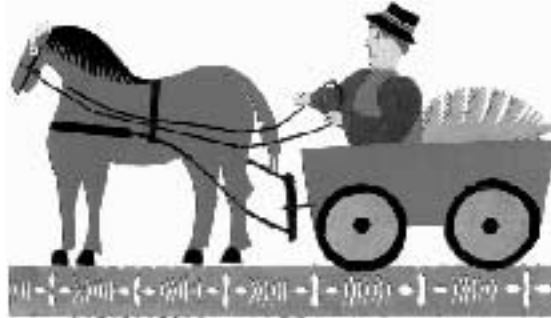


### Eastern Europe

Eastern European folk artists have adapted many folk traditions melding old techniques with new art forms. Today, artisans paint intricate paintings, mold whimsical clay figures & create colorful toys & kitchenware.

### Paper Cuts

During long winters, the Polish country folk enjoyed cutting shapes from leather & cloth. Later, they used sheep-shearing scissors to cut paper designs depicting country life: flowers, fruits, birds, & animals. These Wycinanki paper cuts were hung on cottage walls & ceiling beams or given as gifts.



- ◆ Admire Wycinanki at: <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/wycinanki.html>
- ◆ To make a symmetrical design, fold paper in half & draw half of shape at the fold.
- ◆ Cut the largest shapes first. Glue down on base piece of paper. Cut smaller shapes & add to design.
- ◆ Try cutting non-symmetrical shapes such as birds, animals or people.

### Matryoshka Dolls

Russians carve traditional toys out of wood cut from their lush forests. Colorful wooden Matryoshka dolls stack neatly inside each other. The carver starts with the smallest figure. Each succeeding doll is large enough to hold the previous one in its hollowed out center.

- ◆ Cut out a small Matryoshka figure from colored paper.
- ◆ Fold in ends of another paper to cover first doll. Cut into larger doll shape.
- ◆ Fold & cut progressively larger dolls to enclose smaller ones.
- ◆ Decorate paper figures with oil pastels, markers or crayons.



### Lacquer Miniatures

Imagine needing a magnifying glass to make a painting! Using fine brushes made from squirrels' tails, Russian miniature painters capture tiny scenes of famous fairy tales on lacquered papier-mâché boxes. Though miniscule, the pictures are colorful, lively & filled with details. Try your own mini painting.

◆ Look at Russian lacquer miniature paintings & read fairy tales at: [www.artrusse.ca/index\\_en.htm](http://www.artrusse.ca/index_en.htm)

- ◆ Paint a small box with black tempera paint.
- ◆ Use pencil to draw fairy tale scene on lid of box.
- ◆ Paint main shapes with tempera paint. With pointed brush tip, add details in bright colors.
- ◆ Protect painting by spraying with clear varnish.

### Decorated Eggs

In Eastern Europe, eggs symbolize new life & growth. Ukrainian Pysanky eggs are painted with wax & dyed in rich designs. Celebrate spring by decorating your own eggs.



Information & activities created for teachers, parents and kids by:



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### Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ In 1991, the Soviet Union divided into many republics. Search the paper for news about these countries.
- ◆ Tired of cold, Eastern Europeans heartily celebrate spring. Search paper for ads, festivals, or articles heralding our spring.

