**Ivan Marchuk: Work and life of the prominent Ukrainian painter**

“Give me a thousand years and I'll paint the sky!”

***Ivan Marchuk is one of the most famous representatives of modern Ukrainian art scene. He is the only Ukrainian whose name is included in the list of "Top 100 living geniuses” according to the version of the British newspaper Daily Telegraph. During more than 70 years of his career, Ivan Marchuk created about 5,000 works and held more than 200 personal exhibitions on five continents. He is known for his unique painting technique known as "Plyontanism".***

The legendary artist was born on May 12, 1936 in the village of Moskalivka, in Ternopil region (at that time - the territory of Poland). Since childhood, he felt an urge to draw. After completing the seven-year school, he entered the Lviv School of Decorative and Applied Arts, and later - the Lviv Institute of Decorative and Applied Arts.

Since his student years, he has been looking for his own way of self-expression in art. The desire to create freely encountered strong opposition from the existing system, which imposed a single method in art - socialist realism. He had to leave the country due to persecution by the KGB authorities.

He spent more than a decade in exile (Australia, Canada, USA). After the terrorist act in September 2001, which took place before his eyes in New York, Ivan Marchuk returned to Ukraine, which at that time had already been declared an independent state.

Due to the aggression against Ukraine, which began in February 2022, the artist was again forced to leave his motherland.

Ivan Marchuk currently lives in Vienna. With the support of the local Ukrainian community in Austria, he continues to actively paint, creating new cycles of artistic works and supplementing existing ones. Exhibitions of the artist take place all over the world. Bringing people joy through his art has always been the greatest desire of the artist.

**Unique style.** Marchuk is the founder of the original technique "plyontanism" (from the Ukrainian dialectic "weave"), in which paint is applied in thin colored lines that intertwine at different angles, creating the effect of volume and luminescence. The technique balances on the border of technological and man-made and contributes to the achievement of hyper-realistic image.

Ivan Marchuk artistry is divided into 15 cycles: "Voice of My Soul", "Landscape", "Blooming", "Shevchenkiana", "Color Preludes", "Portrait", "Still Life", "New Expressions", "White Planet I", "White Planet II", "Dreams Flooding", "Looking into Infinity", "White and Black. Dialogue", "Blind cycle", "Vienna Rhapsodies".

The philosophical theme of his paintings conveys the dramatic tension experienced by humanity and resonates with the challenges of modernity. Through the means of art, Marchuk builds his personal vision of the world, rooted in high aesthetics proving the inexhaustibility of artistic means in the search for and reproduction of an aesthetic ideal.

His works play a powerful role in cultural diplomacy, helping to shape a positive image Ukraine on the world stage.

More: on the website [www.ivan-marchuk.com](http://www.ivan-marchuk.com) or [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Ivanmarchukartist/)

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