He is a legend of the Ukrainian art, a brilliant artist who has been exiled from his own land for a long time. Ivan Marchuk is called a patriarch of the Ukrainian avant-garde. His paintings are original and bold, symbolic and philosophical, full of deep ancient images, which turned the dogmatic socialist realism of the Soviet era. Ivan Marchuk invented his own style – plontanizm, in which the images seem to be like woven, intertwined with hundreds of threads.

In 2006, the International Academy of Modern Art in Rome accepted Ivan Marchuk to the ranks of the “Golden Guild”. According to the publication of the “Daily Telegraph” in 2007 Ivan Marchuk was included in the one hundred most outstanding geniuses of our time. At the present time Ivan Marchuk is the most titled Artist of Ukraine, laureate of Taras Shevchenko Prize.

But he was unrecognized genius in the Soviet era, a rebel who turned the domestic art upside down by not being broken under the pressure of the Communist Party. The critics accused him of nationalism, he was persecuted by KGB, and was forced to emigrate – the artist had to go through all these tests in order to get global success. Only after he has been recognized abroad in 1989, Ivan Marchuk was accepted to the Union of Artists of USSR without his consent.

Today his paintings impress the art experts of Europe, America, and Australia. He is offered to be exhibited in the best exhibit halls of the world. But Ivan Marchuk lives in Kiev a modest, almost ascetic life, not seeking for a commercial success. His paintings can be seen mostly at national museums. And hundreds of thousands of people, like pilgrims, go to his exhibition as to the shrine. The history, and quite often a destiny of this people, is connected with the creative genius of the artist.

**Biography**

Ivan Marchuk was born on May [12,](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/12_%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B2%D0%BD%D1%8F) [1936](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936) in the village Moskalivka of Ternopil region in the family of the weaver known to the whole neighborhood.

After finishing 7 years at school, he entered Lviv School of the Applied Arts of I.Trush to the Department of the decorative painting, where he studied in 1951-1956 years.

After the army Marchuk continued to study at the department of ceramics of the Lviv Institute of Applied Art, from which he graduated in 1965.

In [1965](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1965)–[1968](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968)  he worked at the Institute for Superhard Materials of National Academy of Science of Ukraine.

In [1968](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968)–[1984](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1984) he worked at Kyiv plant of monumental and decorative art.

In [1984](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1984) he started to work independently.

In [1989](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1989) he emigrated to Australia, after that he lived in Canada and in the United States. Wide recognition of the artist abroad caused his acceptance to the Union of the Artists of the USSR without his consent.

In [1990](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1990) Marchuk visited Ukraine, where he had his first official exhibition held in Kyiv at the National Art Museum of the Ukrainian Fine Arts (at present - National Museum of Art of Ukraine).

In [1996](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1996) he was awarded the title of the Honored Artist of Ukraine

On March [7,](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/7_%D0%B1%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B7%D0%BD%D1%8F) [1997](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997) he became a laureate of the National Taras Shevchenko Prize of Ukraine.

In [2001](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001) he finally came back to Ukraine.

In [2004](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004) Ivan Marchuk museum was founded in Kyiv, however, its construction has not been completed yet.

In [2006](http://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006)  the International Academy of Modern Art in Rome accepted Ivan Marchuk to the ranks of the “Golden Guild” and elected him as an honorary member of the Scientific Council of the Academy. This is the first recognition of the Ukrainian artist by the institution of such high-level.

In October 2007 Marchuk was included to the British rating of "A hundred geniuses of our time" (72 position). [4] The ranking is affected by: the role in changing the belief systems, social recognition, the power of intelligence, achievement and cultural importance of each of the candidates.

The pictures of Ivan Marchuk reside in many collections around the world.

**Work**

The book “I Am” written by Oleksandr Klymchuk about the life and work of the artist has been publiched in 2013.

Ivan Marchuk has over 4000 pieces of arts, which were presented at more than 100 solo exhibitions.

The Union of the Artists has not been recognizing the works of Ivan Marchuk until 1988, although he had more than 15 exhibitions in various cities of the former Soviet Union (the first exhibitions were held in 1979 and 1980 in Moscow). Only in 1988 he was accepted to the Union of the Artists of the USSR.

Marchuk is a founder of the new styles in art, including “plontanizm” (this name was jokingly given by the artist to his style: from the word “plesty” (weave): paintings seem to be made ​​from the balls of strange thread). Instead of the usual stroke he invented a way of putting subtle color jets on a canvas that creates amazing lace, through which incredible glow and shades of color are seen.

Ivan Marchuk denies his affiliation with any of the schools of painting. He distinguishes ten periods in his work: “The voice of My Soul”, “Blossom”, “Landscape”, “Portrait”, “Colored Foreplay”, “New Expression”, “White Planet 1”, “White Planet 2”, “Dream Overflow their Banks”, “Look into the Infinity”. They have different artistic styles: realism, surrealism, hyperrealism, expressionism, and even abstraction.