

# A Guide to Polish Folk Art



#114991226

To some, Poland is a country of grey apartment blocks and endless winter. Well, it might be for those who have never heard about Poland and its rich culture. If you've already visited Poland and managed to stop by a souvenir shop, you probably know that there's a lot of colour and beauty to our traditional crafts!

# Definitely the eggs!



<https://culture.pl/en/article/a-foreigners-guide-to-polish-folk-art>



The oldest Polish *pisanki* (traditional name for painted eggs, singular: *pisanka*) date back to the end of the 10th century.

There are different ways to decorate eggs: *kraszanki* (also called *malowanki*) are a type of *pisanki* coloured with natural dyes obtained from onion peel, beet juice and various flower petals, cooked until they give up their colours. An egg is then cooked in the resulting dye.

I want to rock with paper and scissors!!



Wycinanki can take on various shapes: stars, circles, trees, rosettes, *leluje* (highlanders name for lilies), dolls, *kogutki* ('cockerels') - basically, the name comes from whatever a wycinanka is depicting.



Nature and beliefs were the major sources of inspiration. In the past people often chose to cut flowering trees, as they symbolised a bond between heaven and earth, cockerels, which symbolised fertility.



I feel like felt!!



In Poland, as in the rest of Europe, felt became popular in the Middle Ages, and was used to make blankets, shoes, hats and other garments.

What is exciting is the fact that felt is experiencing a comeback! It's probably not common to wear felt shoes any more, but items like bags, gloves and phone cases, with folk art ornaments on them, felt necklaces, earrings, hair accessories and toys can be found in the majority of souvenirs shops.







# OTHER THINGS WITH TRADITIONAL POLISH FOLK PATTERNS ARE CLOTHES...





*Best Dressed Poland*

# ...and objects



# I want to get my hands dirty with clay!

Ceramics is a craft widespread across Poland, however there is a particular leading manufacturer in this field: Ceramika Bolestawiec.

It's probably Poland's best known producer of hand-formed and hand-decorated tableware, which uses a world-unique stamp decoration technique. Once you see them, you'll be able to recognise Bolestawiec products any time, anywhere.



Bolesławiec's products include numerous plates, cups, bowls, butter dishes, vases, salt and pepper shakers and many others. One can also find solely decorative elements, such as ceramic figurines and Christmas baubles.



Thank You

