



Egg Art







Egg decorating is one of the oldest forms of Art and Design in the world

How old is the art of Egg
Decorating?

Take a guess...

Egg decorating is
60,000 years old!

How do we know?

Ancient eggshells were found in a cave...

This is the Diepkloof Rock Shelter. It is a rock shelter in Western Cape, South Africa.



In the cave here, archaeologists found some of the earliest evidence of the human use of symbols, in the form of **patterns engraved upon ostrich eggshell water containers.**

Here are the symbolic patterns.

A symbol is a way of communicating through pictures or patterns instead of words or sounds.

These patterns are made up of lines crossed at right angles, or oblique angles, by hatching.

It is thought that the early humans were trying to communicate something through the repetition of these patterns...

What do you suppose they were trying to say?



Design your own symbolic pattern...

A symbol is a way of communicating through pictures or patterns instead of words or sounds.

1) Find a blank page in your Logbook.

2) Write at the top of the page ‘ **Egg decorating – Symbolic Patterns** ’

3) Now imagine you can't write. Instead, draw in your logbook a repeat pattern to communicate the following emotions:

- Happiness
- Sadness
- Anger
- Love

4) Try inventing symbolic patterns to communicate other emotions, instructions or ideas. Look at each others patterns and guess what they mean.

Iron Age Egg

We have also found examples of egg painting from the Iron Age.

Here is an Ostrich egg, decorated with painted red lines.

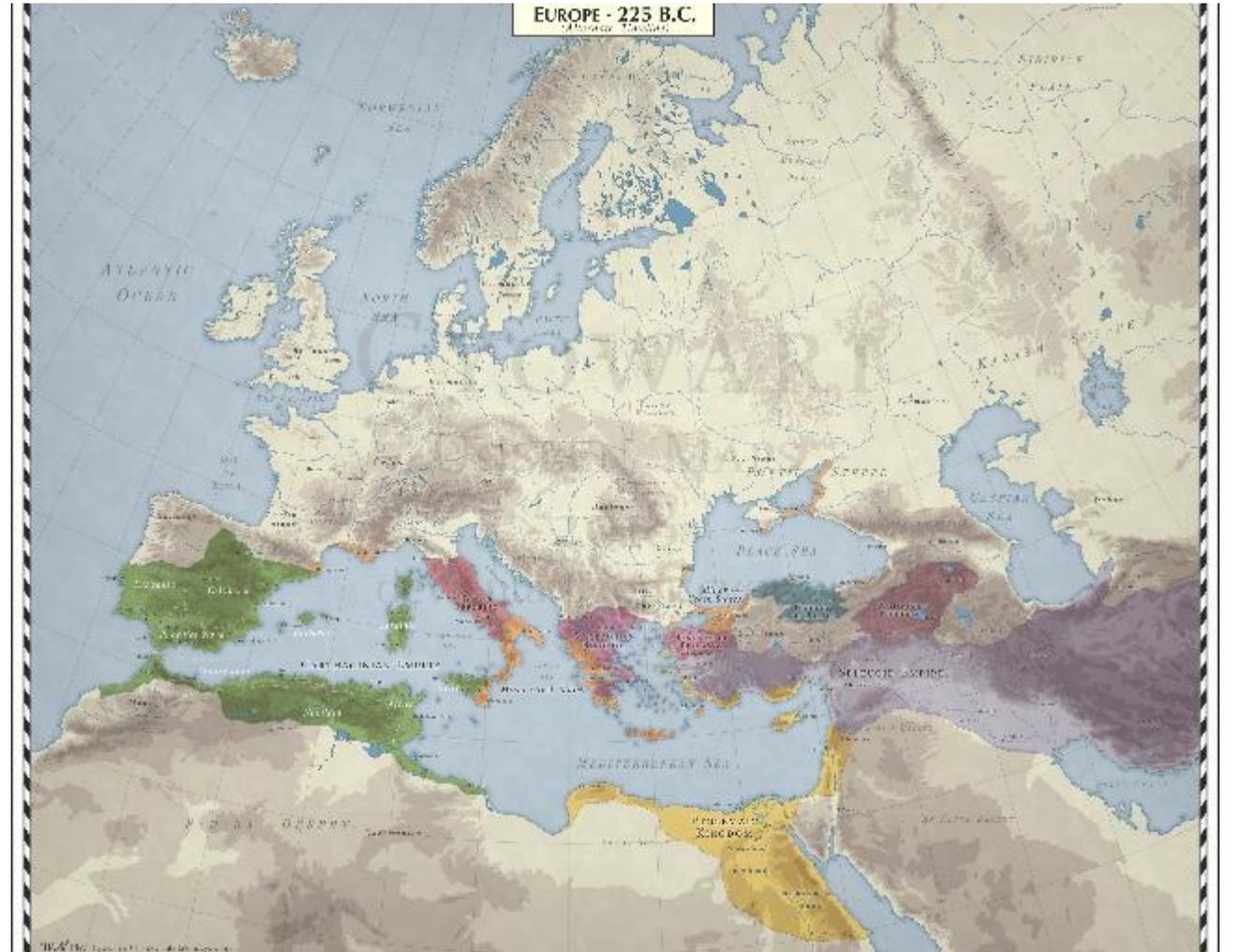
It is thought to be Punic artwork, dated between 599 and 300 BC.



What is Punic Artwork?

- The term Punic comes from the Latin word Punicus, meaning "Carthaginian".
- The Carthaginian empire (in green) existed between the 7th – 3rd century BC.

It covered much of the coast of Northwest Africa as well as substantial parts of coastal Iberia and the islands of the western Mediterranean Sea.



Ostrich Eggs

Ostrich Eggs feature a lot in the history of egg decorating.

Where do Ostriches come from? (Think about the Diepkloof Rock Shelter and The Carthaginian empire...)

Ostrich Eggs are often used in art because they are strong. In fact they are strong enough to be carved!

Have a look at the following examples, and discuss which you like best and why.

(more on following slides!)









These are **Pysanky Eggs**. A **pysanka** is a Ukrainian Easter egg. It is decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs using a wax resist method, like batik.

To Create a Pysanka egg...

A design is drawn on a white egg in hot wax.

- The egg is then dipped in yellow dye. Anything under the wax will remain white.
- More patterns are then drawn onto the now yellow egg. Anything under this layer of wax will remain yellow. This time the egg is dipped in a slightly darker colour dye, usually orange.
- More patterns are drawn with wax on the now orange egg. The patterns drawn with wax on this layer remain orange. The egg is dipped in a darker dye again, usually red.. And so on...
- The final and darkest colour dye is usually black.

When the pattern is complete, all the wax is melted off to reveal the finished design.



<https://youtu.be/L1xxHKOaZlo>

The process of creating a Pysanka is very slow, but you can see a high speed version by following the link above.

Although wax resist techniques are used throughout eastern Europe, the Pysanky Eggs are a particularly Ukrainian art form.

The word *pysanka* comes from the verb *pysaty*, "to write" or "to inscribe", as the designs are not painted on, but written (inscribed) with beeswax.





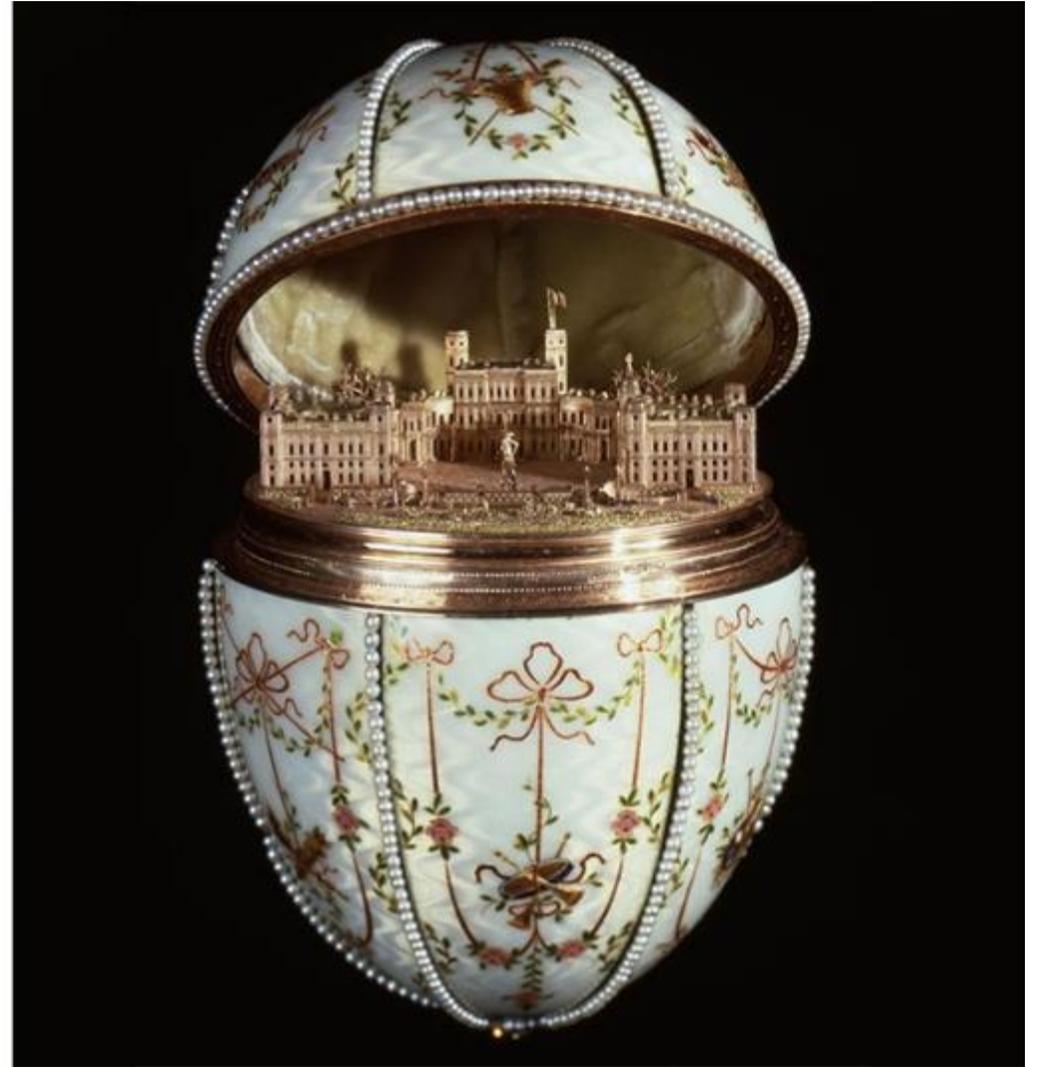
These are Wycinanki eggs (pronounced Vee-chee-non-kee). They are a type of decorated egg originating from Polish folk art.

Wycinanki is the Polish word for 'paper-cut design'. It involves the symmetrical cutting and layering of several pieces of paper. Paper is cut into flowers and animal shapes and applied directly to the egg.

Fabergé Eggs



A Fabergé egg is a jewelled egg created by the House of Fabergé, in St. Petersburg, Imperial Russia. The first egg was created for the Empress Maria Fedorovna in 1885.



Fabergé eggs usually open to reveal hidden treasures inside. Possibly as many as 69 were created in total, of which 57 survive today.

Eggs in modern Art

Gavin Turk is a British born international artist (1967). You can add his name to the list of artists at the back of your logbook. What does international mean?

He uses eggs to explore the relationship between life and art.

In 2018 he asked the public to take photographs of, or inspired by, an egg.

He curated (arranged) all the photographs in an exhibition at Somerset House in London.





'Oeuvre' Gavin Turk's Egg Photography

Use the steps on the following slides to blow your own eggs...



Find the bottom of your egg – this is the end which is a bit less pointy!

Using a pin, firmly apply pressure until you make a small hole in your egg (about 4-5 mm). Use your pin to pick out the egg shell to the right size.

Make another hole, this time in the top of your egg. This hole needs to be a bit smaller (2-3 mm).

Take an antiseptic wipe, and wipe the top of your egg. Place a cup or container beneath your egg.





Lift the egg and bring the top hole to your lips. Blow firmly into the hole...

...make sure you are leaning over your container!

The inside of the egg should come out the bottom hole and fall into your container.

Wash and dry the egg shell ready for use.

How To Marble An Egg

Egg Marbling works best on white eggs, as the colours show up well. If you are not using white eggs, simply spray paint your egg shells white first!



Place a wooden skewer through your egg, using the hole at the bottom as an entry point and the hole at the top as an exit point.





Move your egg near the top of the skewer and attach it in place with a bit of masking tape at top and bottom.

Write your name in pencil on the masking tape.

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- Put your egg carefully to one side and fill a bowl with water
 - Choose 3 different colours from the 'Easy Marble' range
 - Drip the marbling paint into the water (shake about 5 drops of each colour)



Take your egg and dip it right into the water. Gently turn it around (like candyfloss!) to pick up the colours.

When you are happy with your egg, take it out of the water – making sure you gently shake all the water from inside the egg back into the bowl!



Stand your egg upright and let it dry.

We recommend sticking it in a potato which has been cut in half. Make sure the potato is placed on some newspaper!

Once the egg is dry, carefully remove it from the skewer. Thread with a ribbon or a piece of string if you wish to hang the egg up.



How To Marble An Egg - Summary

Egg Marbling works best on white eggs, as the colour shows up well. If you are not using white eggs, simply spray paint your eggs white first!

- 1) Place a wooden skewer through your egg, using the hole at the bottom as an entry point and the hole at the top as an exit point.
- 2) Move your egg near the top of the skewer and attach it in place with a bit of masking tape at top and bottom. Write your name in pencil on the masking tape.
- 3) Put your egg carefully to one side and fill a bowl with water
- 4) Choose 3 different colours from the 'Easy Marble' range
- 5) Drip the marbling paint into the water (shake about 5 drops of each colour)
- 6) Take your egg and dip it right into the water. Gently turn it around (like candyfloss!) to pick up the colours.
- 7) When you are happy with your egg, take it out of the water – making sure you gently shake all the water from inside the egg back into the bowl!
- 8) Stand your egg upright and let it dry. We recommend sticking it in a potato which has been cut in half. Make sure the potato is placed on some newspaper!
- 9) Once the egg is dry, carefully remove it from the skewer. Thread with a ribbon or a piece of string if you wish to hang the egg up

How to Blow an Egg - summary

- 1) Find the bottom of your egg – this is the end which is a bit less pointy!
- 2) Using a pin, firmly apply pressure until you make a small hole in our egg (about 4 -5 mm). Use your pin to pick out the egg shell.
- 3) Turn your egg up – side – down
- 4) Make another hole, this time in the top of your egg. This hole needs to be a bit smaller (2-3mm).
- 5) Take an antiseptic wipe, and wipe the top of your egg.
- 6) Place a cup or container beneath your egg.
- 7) Lift the egg and bring the top hole to your lips. Blow firmly into the hole– make sure you are leaning over your container!
- 8) The inside of the egg should come out the bottom hole and fall into your container.
- 9) Wash and dry the egg shell ready for use.

Now Fill Out Your Logbook

- What Was your Activity? **Egg Marbling**
- What did you THINK about it? **Example answer: I thought it was...interesting... because...we learned that egg decoration has been around for 60 000 years!.....**
- What did you FEEL about it? **Example answer: I really enjoyed it because I loved the feel of swishing the egg around and seeing it pick up the colours.**
- Which pages of your logbook tell us more? **Find the page where you did your egg patterns and write the page number here.**
- Make sure you stick in a photo of yourself taking part in the egg marbling activity in the space provided.
- How has it inspired you? **Example answer: Egg marbling has inspired me to try blowing eggs at home with my family. I have lots of ideas for designs that I would like to try out.**