



Anastasiya Rak
(1922–2014)

NATALKA AND PETRO

Krivoy Rog, Dnepropetrovsk Region,
Ukrainian SSR

1991

Glass, tempera, ink

About the project

<https://tsaritsyno-museum.ru/events/special/p/lyudi-i-fondy-eng/>





SELECTED BY

Lyudmila Shemrakova,

Head of the Exhibition Department



My name is Lyudmila Shemrakova. I have been working at the Tsaritsyno Museum-Reserve for more than five years.

The decorative composition 'Natalka and Petro' by Anastasiya Rak (1922–2014) is based on the famous Ukrainian play, which united almost every main area of secular Ukrainian culture, such as the folk nativity scene tradition, school drama and sideshow. In the late 18th century, the future play author, Ivan Kotlyarevsky, began his literary career by publishing Virgil's Aeneid in Ukrainian. As the director of the Poltava Free Theater in 1816–1821, he wrote the play 'Natalka Poltavka', that still lives on today. It was a source of inspiration for creating other works of art.

But what I care about most is not the plot of the play or the figure of its author, but the amazing painting by artist Anastasiya Rak (in the 1990s the French gave her the nickname 'Ukrainian Matisse'), a representative of naive art, that is, the art of non-professionals. The artist's unique technique — painting on glass — transports you into a warm, sincere and harmonious world, similar to a multicoloured dream, mesmerizing in its depth.

I want you to feel this light and joy coming from within, an atmosphere of tenderness, peace and love.