

“Я єсм” – “I am” is Marchuk’s cherished expression! And I am also a Marchuk – Veronika Olena – with roots stretching back to western Ukraine. We never really checked whether Maestro and I might share common ancestry, but he affectionately calls me “his cosmic daughter,” and I truly feel that kinship. I am also profoundly grateful to fate and to Tamara Strypko, who stumbled upon me on the Internet many winters ago and reached out. It was my very name and surname that caught her attention – indeed, she was surprised, as she had heard of a “renowned figure in Poland.” Since that moment, we have become like family: I recognize him by his mood, the tone of his voice, his look – and even by what remains unseen. It’s as if I can sense what is unfolding, know what Ivan dreams of, and intuit what would best serve him and his art. We have become companions, sharing dreams, meeting, reflecting, and creating marvellous things together: already four exhibitions and a catalogue, a grand concert in honour of the Maestro, presentations on a ship sailing down our beloved Dnipro, gatherings with ministers, connoisseurs, fans, and the press, children’s competitions, and even the ordeal of evacuation – with all its trials, hastily departures, and everyday life in Warsaw. We will never forget that time.

Could one, in so many years, unravel the mystery of genius? Every viewer who contemplates the paintings seems to step into another dimension. In that moment, you know with certainty that only the chosen one could have created them. Twelve different Marchuks! Such a multiplicity is a wonder that the mind can never fully grasp.

The way Ivan Marchuk loves and paints Ukraine, few can approach that level of intimacy. That is the reason we all are drawn to his masterpieces as if they were our beloved homeland. He knows Ukraine’s deepest secrets, transcribing her songs onto canvas, and enchants us all with her genuine beauty.

This is my dream exhibition – to have it held in the Vatican, immersed in an Italian ambience where the air itself exudes the flavour of art. It is a gathering of symbols – both religious and cultural, historical and political. In today’s world, it is more important than ever to present the genuine values and truth, and cultural diplomacy is our finest means of doing so.

Heading the Ukraine’s Friends Foundation in Poland, we collaborate with many countries, international partners, and institutions, and we take immense pride in our cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine to the Holy See.

Our common mission is to convey to the global community the incredible talent and the singular genius of our modern Maestro and his work.

Ivan Marchuk’s exhibitions are always more than a mere introduction to his art. They offer a profound experience – a chance to feel the depth of the Ukrainian soul, its resilience, and its inexhaustible potential. Through Maestro’s art, one can understand where Ukrainians draw their strength today.

Marchuk, as a symbol of Ukraine, unites people from every corner of the globe with his imagery that transcends time and embodies beauty and humanity. Anyone who feels as Maestro does will never attempt to do harm.

We warmly invite you to explore the works featured in this exhibition and to join us at our future events!

Marchuk Veronika Olena – CEO Ukraine's Friends Foundation

(Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Ukrainy)