

THE INFLUENCE OF WORKS OF SACRED ART ON THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Our research article describes the role of sacred art in the formation and education of young people, as well as the influence of works of sacred art on the establishment of the national idea and the role of figures in defending independence. We emphasise that the depiction of these figures in iconography and religious painting is interesting and instructive, as it reminds us of the deeds and actions of those who gave their lives for the freedom and independence of the state.

Art plays an important role in shaping the worldview and educating different generations, including young people. Efforts should be made to educate young people to become conscious citizens. Sacred art is an effective means of education. It has been developing in Ukraine since the times of Kyivan Rus, when the first Byzantine-style icons and churches appeared. This art has shaped people over the centuries and influences today's youth. After all, it demonstrates the thousand-year history of the Ukrainian people, perpetuates the memory of prominent figures of the past and fosters a sense of national dignity and spirituality [1, p. 388–389].

Although the Baroque style came to Ukraine from the West, Ukrainian Baroque art acquired its own peculiarities. It combined Eastern Christian traditions with new trends. In the eighteenth century, Baroque transformed the colour palette of iconography, introduced dynamism and brightness. Ukrainian icons of this period were marked by asymmetry and proportionality. Thanks to monastic schools, the Baroque style spread to other countries. Ukrainian Baroque acquired national features and had a significant impact on the art of neighbouring countries [2, p. 23–24].

Sacred art influences the formation of the national idea and the education of young people. In particular, it helps to shape the images of prominent figures of the past, creates a sense of national identity, and reflects important historical events.

"The Cossack Intercession is a unique type of Ukrainian icon depicting Zaporizhzhia Cossacks. Only a few such icons have survived. The most famous is the one with Petro Kalnyshevskiy, a Cossack foreman and saints. Another is of Bohdan Khmelnytsky and other figures of Ukrainian history. There are also icons of Ivan Sulyma, a Cossack foreman, and Ivan Mazepa. These icons are of great historical and cultural significance. They are a unique combination of the religious and the national, preserving the memory of the heroes of the past [5, p. 62–63].

In addition to the well-known Cossack Intercessions, there are other unique icons of the Cossack era. In particular, the Intercession with Pavlo Polubotko and other characters of that era. There are also two similar icons from the seventeenth century with unknown Cossack elders. Another notable icon of the Intercession is distinguished by its dark colouring. There is also an eighteenth-century Intercession icon with many figures. The last Cossack Intercession to come down to us dates back to 1905. These rare icons are valuable monuments of the past that demonstrate the richness of the cultural heritage of the Cossack era and its influence on the formation of the Ukrainian nation [5, p. 63–65].

We can often see saints on icons or images of famous figures in embroidered shirts, wreaths, and kyrias. The Holy Virgin wears a wreath of flowers, St Andrew the First-Called wears a Cossack kunda, and King David wears a hetman's kyre [6, p. 260].

Cultural icons play an important role in shaping national identity, especially among young people. They combine religious imagery with elements of traditional Ukrainian culture - embroidered shirts, pysankas, towels, etc. A striking example is the work of Oleksandr Okhapkin. His icons "The Holy Family", "The Protection of the Holy Virgin", "Transcarpathian Madonna" depict saints in Ukrainian folk costumes, and the background is decorated with national ornaments. The "Gracious Silence" series also combines the religious with the folklore. Such icons help young Ukrainians to dive deeper into national culture and traditions through spiritual art. Enculturation makes faith closer and more understandable to everyone [7].

Some contemporary icons reflect current events in Ukraine, which is of educational importance. In particular, the works of the artist Valeriy Tverdokhlib. His icon "Time"

depicts Jesus Christ against a red background, symbolising martyrdom, and a ruined city is visible below, a hint of war. The icon "The Saviour of the Unmanufactured" has similar symbolism. There are works dedicated to the liberation of cities and the return of prisoners. They help to understand the situation in the country and the role of heroes in the struggle. We should also mention a painting depicting soldiers and angels. Such works raise the patriotic spirit, especially among young people. They show the importance of defending the Motherland and the role of individuals in this struggle [3; 4].

Sacred art plays an important role in the formation of national consciousness and patriotic education of young people. In particular, it perpetuates the memory of the heroes of the past, reflects contemporary events, and glorifies the feat of the defenders of the Motherland. Epitaphs on the graves of fallen soldiers also foster a sense of patriotism, glorifying their sacrifice for the sake of Ukraine. Therefore, sacred art is an effective tool for strengthening the national idea and educating younger generations.

In summary, works of sacred art play an important role in shaping national consciousness and patriotic education of young people. They perpetuate the memory of the heroes of the past, reflect current events, and glorify the feat of the defenders of the Motherland. Through this art, young people learn national ideas, form a sense of identity, and realise the role of the individual in history. The study of the impact of sacred art is a relevant and promising area, as it helps to raise the cultural level of society and understand our heritage.

Key words: sacred art, icons, national idea, personality, state independence.