

Crafts, professions of excellence

WOOD CRAFTS AND WOODCARVING

Related professional – Grzegorz Michałek (Janosik)
Workshop: JanosikArt

Wood carving is a profession that consists in making and decorating furniture and architectural elements, such as pine wood (beams supporting the ceiling), door panels, balcony and porch covers, decorative curtain rods, and moldings.



(Janosik in his studio, Photo: Olga Michalska)

Woodcarving in some periods of history was the leading branch of sculpture. Known probably already in the Upper Paleolithic period, 50,000 and 12,000 years ago. Woodcarving was significantly improved and furt in antiquity and the early Middle Ages. It flourished in late Gothic (crucifixes, polychrome reliefs and altar sculptures) and Baroque (interior furnishings of churches - altars with figures of saints, putti, pulpits, stalls, confessionals). Wood carving developed the most in the mountain and foothill areas, where sheep were grazed in pastures.

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Shepherds grinds enough wood and free time, which allowed them to produce decorative items. Juhasi even competed with each other in decorating spoon racks, salt shakers and scoops. Carving often died out with the end of the bachelor status - a mature man did not have time to deal with ornamentation, he did not even have social consent to such activities.



(Chisels used for woodcarving, Photo: Olga Michalska)



(Planes used for woodworking, Photo: Olga Michalska)

What are the skills and expertise of professionals in this profession?

In terms of energy expenditure, work in the profession of a wood sculptor belongs to light / medium-heavy work when making small objects, or heavy work - when making sculptures of large dimensions. A person undertaking work in the profession of a wood carver should be in good health, in particular, have good eyesight (vision defects may be corrected with glasses), dexterity of hands and fingers, and manual skills.



(Photo : Grzegorz Michałek (Janosik) in his workshop, Photo Olga Michalska)

What materials are used in this craft? Are they local materials

In woodcarving, the basic issue is the appropriate selection of wood for carving. At the beginning, it is best to choose soft wood, such as linden, birch, pine, willow, chestnut, and only when we get into practice, we will be able to carve in harder wood, such as apple or walnut. You need to pay attention to whether the wood for carving does not contain knots, rings and whether it is not smooth. These are natural difficulties in the work of a woodcarver.



(Carved balustrade, Photo: Olga Michalska)

What markets are related to this profession?

The most common form of employment in the profession of a wood carver is running your own business. In addition, a wood sculptor can work, among others in: - plants producing stylish furniture, - monument conservation and reconstruction studios, - film and advertising industry in scenography, - studios in theaters. Currently, the professions of wood carver are scarce on the labor market.

Where to learn this profession in Europe?



(JanosikArt woodcarving , Photo: Olga Michalska

You can start working with wood already in your adolescence, but it is best to learn the true art of woodcarving under the supervision of experienced educators. This can be done by choosing art or industry schools. There are several centers throughout Poland, including:

- State Secondary School of Fine Arts in Zamość

<https://lpzamosc.pl/index.php/o-szkole/specjalnosci/359-snycerstwo-2>

- State Secondary School of Fine Arts in Krosno

<http://www.lpkrosno.pl/nabor/snycerstwo>

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<https://www.vetropack.com/it/il-vetro/storia-del-vetro/>

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The History of glassmaking: "Stained glass and glass work, an ancestral craft" (in French)

<https://traces-memoire.luxembourg-belge.be/la-verrierie-artisanat-ardenne/>

Glasswork, a project funded by Creative Europe : <https://glass-works.org/en/>

Video of amazing glassworks : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gadvVvIEEkc>

Why is glass a sustainable material? Find more [here](#) and [here](#).

If you want to know more about the Murano glass click [here](#).