



Maru Jarockyj

Born Marusia Jurkiw in Lancashire England 25.7.1951 to Ukrainian parents, World War II refugees from Ternopil and Polisia, Ukraine. Graduated from Manchester University with a B.A and B.Arch in Architecture currently a practising chartered architect, a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects since 1977 RIBA and a Member of the Australian Institute of Architects since 1986 AIA.

In 1981, together with her husband and two young sons, Maru emigrated to Australia where she held the position of City Architect at Broadmeadows City Council, Victoria for 11 years, overseeing the design and construction of countless civic and community buildings. She undertook the role of Asset Manager & Capital Works co-ordinator from 1997 – 2015 at the Parks & Recreation Division at Melbourne City Council. Maru founded her own architectural practise, “Axis Architects”, designing fire stations, community centres, residential complexes, aged care facilities, commercial offices and retail developments.

Active in the Ukrainian Community Maru is currently Chair of the Auditing Board of the Ukrainian Women’s Association Australia, a member of the Ukrainian Catholic Financial Council and the Director of the Ukrainian Museum of Australia.

Experimenting in graphics and the arts since 1985, Maru’s first solo exhibition, titled “Dynamics Today”, was held in Melbourne in 1993. Her most recognisable work “Chornobyl Madonna” has been exhibited in London, Toronto, Dayton USA, Rome, Kyiv, Prudentopolis Brazil , Beijing, and in the State Parliament of Victoria during the exhibition commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl Disaster. Her Madonna Holodomor 33 banner hangs in the UGCC Cathedral of the Resurrection in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Her work styles encompass contemporary modernism, an exploration of neo-cubism, with overtones of Ukrainian spirituality, tradition and history interwoven within defined art context. The cutting cubist form of expression coupled with bold fiery colour pairings demands each work be read and dissected with in depth analysis. The multitude of lines defining the art images represent strong cerebral threads, strands of identity, a definition of personality and constants that make one tick. These lines are the ropes, the chains, the unbreakable threads of Maru’s Ukrainian DNA