

Martin Benka

Martin Benka belongs to the most popular Slovak artists, whose name is known beyond our borders. He is considered a founder of Slovak modern painting and drawing.

He was successful in many fields. He was a painter, an illustrator, a graphic designer and a scenic educationist.

He was interested in music and he constructed 13 violins which are exposed in Museum of Martin Benka now.

He also enriched Slovak literature with his memorials and travelogues.

Together with two other most popular Slovak artists – Fulla and Galanda – he is considered a founder of Slovak books illustrations.

Lets start with presentation of his work.

This picture is called „To meadows“, it was painted in 1934.

In his paintings, he often expressed nature and ordinary people. This way he reflect love and honor to Slovak nation.

Concrete in thic picture you can see a contrast between hardworking people (probably herders and farmers) and beautiful alpine nature. It affect in a positive way because author appreciates human work.

Look at „Essays of pine forrest“. This was a considerable goal in his life. From money which he erved from this, he went on essays tour to Orava. Thanks to this trip, he consolidate his first independent exposition.

This piece of art describe important history of the Slovak nation. It is a scene from Štúr's voluntary venture rebellion. Their mission was procure equality of Slovakia in Hungary.

Martin Benka achieved a couple of awards.

The most important was his international success on the World exposition in Paris where he gained a silver medal.

He was a big artist and human in Slovak history. His motto stands: „Not to climb too high, not look for beauty in emptiness but be grateful for where you are: with people, in life..“

Thank you for your attention.

Veronika Poloncová, II. C

