

ANNA MIKOVA

Sculpture, as a fine art in Ruthelia, dates (0) back only to the 1920s. (1).....of Ruthelia's first sculptors was a woman called Anna Mikova. Anna (2).....born in Azhgorod in 1904, and as a child (3).....the local elementary school. When her father (4).....a job in Damascus, she continued her education there. Then, her family returned to Ruthelia and settled (5).....the island of Belikstrana, where Anna completed her secondary education. Her love of art (6)..... always evident in the pictures she drew at school and at home. In 1920, before graduating (7).....high school, she began to attend (8).....in painting at the Academy of Fine Arts. There she made a copy of an ancient bust, and (9).....her teacher saw it, he could not at (10).....believe that it was Anna's own work. (11).....studying painting for a year, she chose to study sculpture. She was the first and the only female student (12).....three boys at the Academy. She (13)..... first in a competition, (14).....a scholarship and went to Italy. She attended the studio of Professor Luppi at the Rome Academy of Fine Arts, and (15)..... was there that her work gained maturity. She later became assistant to Edolo di Girolamo, the Italian sculptor (16).....designed the Gloria Monument in Zorica Square in Azhgorod. Her passion for sculpture was (17).....strong that she earned a reputation (18).....as well as in Ruthelia. She was a productive artist whose work (19).....in many exhibitions.

Her sculptures, (20).....as her statues of the President and his wife, attracted widespread interest. She (21)..... to work throughout her life. Her husband, Sergei Mikov retired, (22)..... served as an ambassador for many years, and the couple moved back to the capital. After her husband's death and the marriage (23)..... her adopted daughter, Anna went (24)..... producing sculptures. (25)..... is generally agreed that this was her best period, when she produced some of her finest work, (26)..... the famous 'Hymn to Life' series of sculptures. She died on 2 October 1992 (27)..... skin cancer. It was said that at her funeral (28)..... were more than ten thousand mourners, and (29)..... one of them was (30)..... tears.