

## VIDEO SYNOPSIS: Marj NejdI

### Introduction by Riki Saltzman

- :20 Riki Saltzman introduces herself as Folklife Coordinator for the Iowa Arts Council Department of Cultural Affairs. The department works with individuals and communities to document, preserve, and present their traditions.
- :45 She describes presenting crafts, music, and dance as some of the traditions, at folk life festivals, on radio shows, and on two on-line folk life curricula.
- 1:04 Each of the five artists is briefly shown as Ms. Saltzman describes their craft or art.

### Marj NejdI (NejdI is pronounced *nade ul*)

- 1:44 Marj NejdI is from Cedar Rapids. She is Czech, and she creates original Czech Easter eggs. She learned how to make them when she was a girl, when an uncle taught her. She addresses the camera and introduces her granddaughter Emily. She states that she thought as a girl that “everybody” did art like this. Her parents came from Czechoslovakia. She teaches the batik or old world egg art at the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids.
- 2:35 There is a close-up of Ms. NejdI holding an egg over a candle. Several people are seated at a long table and all are working on eggs. She states that it’s a fun art. The method used in creating the egg art depends on what area in Czech Republic the creator came from. For example, there are beads glued on one kind of egg, and it is shown. There is background noise, so some of the narrative is hard to hear.
- 3:05 Various stages of creating a decorated egg are shown: penciling in a design, dipping an egg in a colored medium, and removing wax from an egg by holding it over a candle. Ms. NejdI is teaching people how to make the eggs, and announces the stages of the work. The hardest part is taking the wax off.
- 3:50 Ms. NejdI holds up an egg that shows a bobbin lace design. She shows an egg made with the drop pull method, in which the egg is dipped into colored beeswax, and a mark is made by dropping and pulling material. It is shown as a raised area of the egg design.
- 4:30 The decoration of eggs is shown, including filling in color with a special instrument.
- 4:48 Emily, the child, states that she has a good time creating eggs, and likes to see how they turn out.
- 5:00 Ms. NejdI explains that she demonstrated a beeswax method at the Iowa State Fair in 1982, using a quilt design.
- 5:16 There is a good close-up of a cut-out design egg, with a duck and its surrounding flora. This appears to be a very difficult egg to create. Then several eggs are shown in a person’s hands, followed by camera shots of people working on different stages of egg making.
- 5:42 There is a close-up of a black egg with two ducks and flowers. Ms. NejdI holds up an egg made with what she calls a stained-glass method, in which some of the design is raised. She refers to a few terms she may have used with the people she was teaching, which do not appear on the video.
- 6:12 A group of decorated eggs is shown.
- 6:20 End of Marj NejdI section