

CLAY BIRDS

1:23:05 Mrs. Natasha lives in a house on the outskirts of Planinsko polje in the southeast of Slovenia. She can easily observe birds, which she encounters near her home.

1:23:20 In the summer, there's a lot of lush vegetation on the marshy meadows. Thick bushes offer refuge to many little feathered creatures.

1:23:35 Mrs. Natasha, undisturbed, observes her loving birds in the early morning.

1:23:45 Why does she find this noisy ensemble so attractive?

1:23:50 Natasha is an artist. She makes clay birds.

1:23:56 Her favourite bird is the kingfisher.

1:24:10 Natasha squeezes and stretches the clay with her fingers, until she moulds a little head and body.

1:24:30 She's been moulding clay birds for many years now. Therefore her fingers are very dexterous.

1:25:00 She has to cut a little figurine with a piece of wire and hollow it out to prevent it from exploding while baking.

1:25:19 She carefully puts two pieces together.

1:25:42 The kingfisher is endowed with magnificent wings. The figurine is now ready for drying, which will take at least a fortnight.

1:25:56 Mrs. Natasha makes different clay birds. A split tail is typical for barn swallow. Before she places the figurines into the kiln, Mrs. Natasha rubs each one with a wet sponge and makes sure that all the joints have dried properly.

1:26:17 A red-backed shrike often flies over the fields.

1:26:44 A pied wagtail sits on the roof of the nearby barn. The sculptor really has a keen eye for birds.

1:27:05 Today is the day for opening the kiln. The clay is baked.

1:27:12 It's time for dyeing now.

1:27:20 This is a hoopoe, a very rare and beautiful bird from the Planinsko polje region. Natasha first dyes it, and then paints it with its typical stripes.

1:27:42 These two blackbirds are already glazed. They look like real blackbirds, don't they?

1:27:50 And this is a sparrow, right?

1:27:59 A cat is amazed by this duck, which ignores it completely. But it looks as if it were real!

1:28:19 When her work is over, Mrs. Natasha takes a well-earned rest.