

# DAHLOV IPCAR



## EARLY LIFE

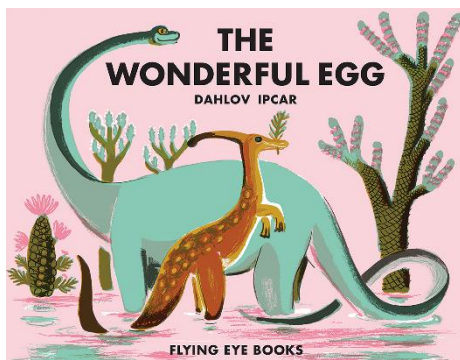
Born in Vermont, America in 1917, Dahlov was the younger of two children. She spent her childhood living in New York, with both of her parents' prolific artists themselves. Her mother a painter and her father a sculptor. They didn't send her to art school and instead allowed her to find her inner artist herself. From a very young age, she had a love for animals, jungle animals in particular. She was inspired by her mother's stylised, detailed designs and gained her 3D perspective through her father's sculpting work.

## CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In 1939 at the age of 21, she had her first solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, called Creative Growth, the first of many solo shows over the next forty years. She was the first woman and the youngest artist to be featured in a solo exhibition at the museum. She wrote and illustrated over thirty children's books, mainly about animals, and won the NEIBA President's Award and the Kerlan Award for Children's Literature. Her work has been shared in numerous exhibitions, and she gained just under 20 awards and honours for her art and writing.

## ARTISITC STYLE

Most of her paintings used thick oil paint straight onto canvas or onto transparent film for her book illustrations. She painted entirely from her imagination, but she was inspired by the patterns and forms in nature. Dahlov would rarely plan or sketch her work out and instead would rather head straight to the canvas with her paintbrush. She once explained that she had deliberately tried to train her visual memory so that she was able to see the animals she wished to paint in her mind's eye, whether antelopes leaping or zebras galloping. Initially, her designs had a 'realism' feel, and she was put off by following the crowd when abstract movements came along; however, combining inspiration from cubism and natural patterns, her style morphed into the geometric, kaleidoscopic, vivid and modern style that many have since fallen in love with. Though struggling with macular degeneration (sight lose), she continued painting till the very end. Dahlov died at the age of 99.





FIND OUT MORE...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-dz6Gn0JTU>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2017/feb/14/dahlov-ipcars-seven-decades-in-childrens-books-in-pictures>

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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. How many books has Ipcar written and illustrated?
2. What kind of artist was her father?
3. How old was she when she died?
4. What was her passion in life?
5. How old was she when she had her first solo exhibition?