
GET TO KNOW THE ARTIST GREG CURNOE

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Greg Curnoe's art is about politics, patriotism, pop culture, colour, activism, and a dedication to his country. This is a portrait Curnoe painted of himself.

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Curnoe loved to ride and paint bikes.

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He began his career in the 1960s, at the beginning of a decade of change when many people asked, "What does it mean to be Canadian?"

Curnoe's response was often irreverent and provocative, like in this work.

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In this work Curnoe erased the United States from his map of North America

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Curnoe frequently made works about Canadian politicians, such as this image of Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King.

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Curnoe's work chronicled his daily experiences in paintings, drawings, sculptures, and collages. He often used materials he had found, such as scraps of paper and labels.

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In 1968 Curnoe created the series "The True North Strong and Free" to challenge his viewers to think about the boundary between Canada and the United States.

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Curnoe created many works that celebrate Canadian identity, from a collection of local pop bottles that he collected throughout Canada to watercolour sketches of places he visited.

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Curnoe's hometown of London, Ontario, was especially important to him, and he became one of the leaders of the London Regionalism art movement.

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A devoted husband and dad, he often painted pictures of his family: his daughter Zoe, his son Owen, his son Galen.

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He also made many self-portraits, including an entire series in watercolour in which he often appears in a cycling shirt or cap—clothing that refers to his great cycling passion.

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"It was so natural for me to associate type and text with a picture. And I quickly learned there are things you can do with a text that you can't do with a picture." – Greg Curnoe