

GET TO KNOW THE ARTIST MOLLY LAMB BOBAK

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Born into a cultured family in 1920, from childhood Molly Lamb seemed destined to be an artist.

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Molly as a young girl.

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Molly as a War Artist.

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When the Second World War began, Molly Lamb was a 19-year-old art student. She joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) in 1942 and began to paint works like this one.

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Molly Lamb humorously documented her experiences in an illustrated diary where she chronicled her daily chores, gas drills, and day trips during her time off.

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Molly Lamb became the first Canadian woman to be an official war artist. Her sketches and paintings provide us with a detailed account of Canadian women's involvement in the Second World War.

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Molly Lamb's art challenged the gendered and racial biases of the army, representing her fellow servicewomen as commanding and resolute.

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After the war Molly Lamb married Bruno Bobak. The couple moved to the West Coast; then, in 1960, to Fredericton, where they taught at the University of New Brunswick. As an art teacher, she inspired countless students.

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In the 1960s, Molly Lamb Bobak began painting crowd scenes that show people gathered in community spaces, often waving flags, cheering on sports teams, or in parades or attending ceremonies.

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Molly Lamb Bobak is also famous for painting flowers, creating detailed studies of textures, colours, and forms that celebrate the beauty of ordinary life.

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"I have always been interested in informal movement—blowing wildflowers, parades, protests, crowds on the street [that] turn into painting space in my head."— Molly Lamb Bobak