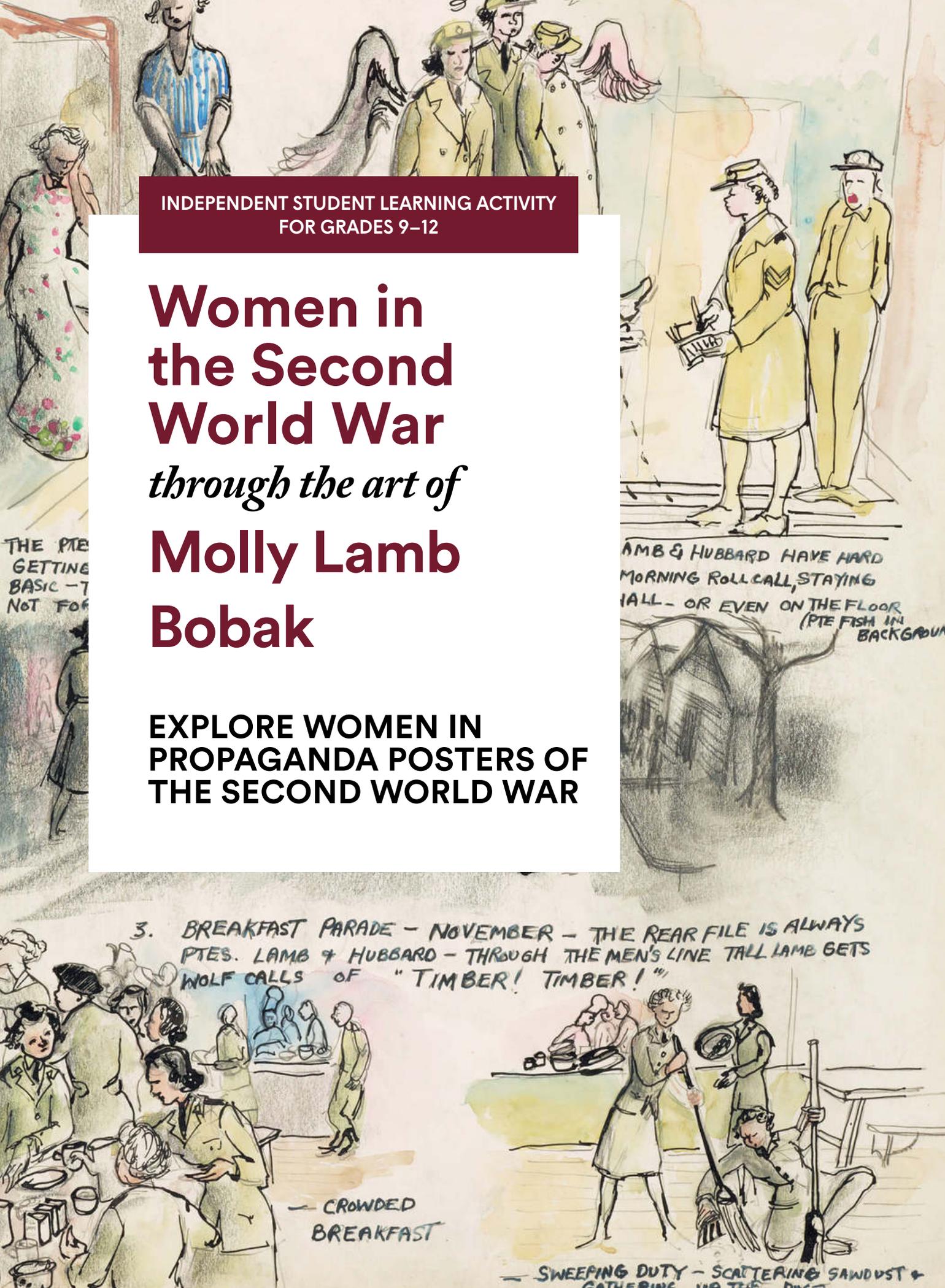


INDEPENDENT STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITY
FOR GRADES 9-12

Women in the Second World War *through the art of* **Molly Lamb Bobak**

EXPLORE WOMEN IN
PROPAGANDA POSTERS OF
THE SECOND WORLD WAR



THE PTE
GETTING
BASIC - 7
NOT FOR

AMB & HUBBARD HAVE HARD
MORNING ROLL CALL, STAYING
TALL - OR EVEN ON THE FLOOR
(PTE FISH IN
BACKGROUND)

3. BREAKFAST PARADE - NOVEMBER - THE REAR FILE IS ALWAYS
PTES. LAMB & HUBBARD - THROUGH THE MEN'S LINE TALL LAMB GETS
WOLF CALLS OF "TIMBER! TIMBER!"

- CROWDED
BREAKFAST

- SWEEPING DUTY - SCATTERING SANDUST +
GATHERING UP THE DUST

TEACHER INTRODUCTION

Using Molly Lamb Bobak’s art as a starting point, this independent activity will examine the role of women in art from the Second World War including a propaganda poster designed to encourage Canadians to do their part for the war effort. This activity has been written to complement the Art Canada Institute online art book *Molly Lamb Bobak: Life & Work* by Michelle Gewurtz and adapted from the Teacher Resource Guide titled “Learn about Women in the Second World War through the art of Molly Lamb Bobak.” For additional learning materials, please see the Art Canada Institute [Teacher Resource Guides](#).

Throughout the Second World War, the government used propaganda to encourage Canadians to contribute to the war effort. In this activity, students will compare and contrast the portrayal of women in a Canadian Women’s Army Corps recruitment poster with a work from Molly Lamb’s personal war diary. Consider using this activity as a catalyst for discussion of the role of Canadian women during the Second World War and/or as an introduction to a deeper study of Second World War propaganda and possible extension activities (such as students creating their own posters).

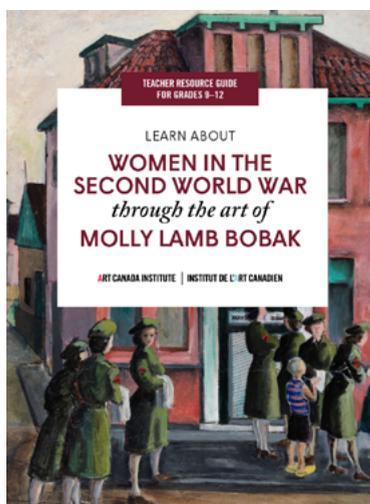
Please note that it is suggested that you prepare a supplementary activity for your students on propaganda posters of the Second World War. This can be shared through a synchronous class, an asynchronous video posted to your digital space, or an additional handout.

Within this activity, your students will have the opportunity to engage in critical discussion. Several platforms, such as Jamboard, Parlay, and Flipgrid, may be used to help foster rich dialogue among students throughout this activity.

Students will also have the opportunity to share their work with their peers at the end of this activity. Applications for creating a communal gallery space include CoSpaces Edu, Google Classroom, and Seesaw.

Curriculum Connections

- Grades 9–12 Dramatic Arts
- Grades 9–12 English
- Grades 9–12 History
- Grades 9–12 Visual Arts



ADAPTED FROM

Learn about Women in the Second World War through the art of Molly Lamb Bobak

Grades 9 to 12

THEMES

- Propaganda
- The Second World War
- Women’s roles in society
- Women in wartime

DOWNLOAD GUIDE



Molly Lamb Bobak eventually became an art teacher, and her lessons were so popular that they were broadcast on TV.



EDUCATION:
Vancouver School of Art, British Columbia

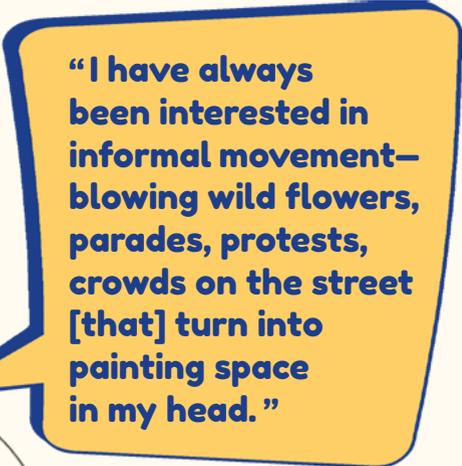


Molly Lamb Bobak's father, Harold Mortimer-Lamb, was an art critic and photographer, so she grew up surrounded by artists.

GET TO KNOW THE ARTIST



BEST KNOWN FOR:
Being the only woman to be an official war artist during the Second World War



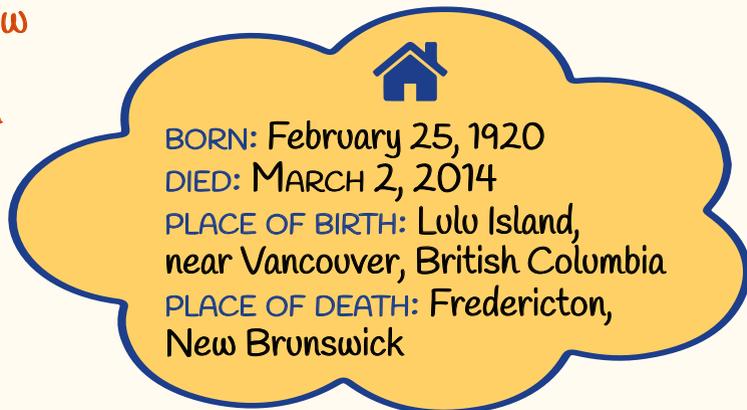
"I have always been interested in informal movement—blowing wild flowers, parades, protests, crowds on the street [that] turn into painting space in my head."

MOLLY LAMB BOBAK

As a child, she and a friend wrote and performed their own plays.



She regularly drew caricatures, often poking fun at herself.



BORN: February 25, 1920
DIED: MARCH 2, 2014
PLACE OF BIRTH: Lulu Island, near Vancouver, British Columbia
PLACE OF DEATH: Fredericton, New Brunswick

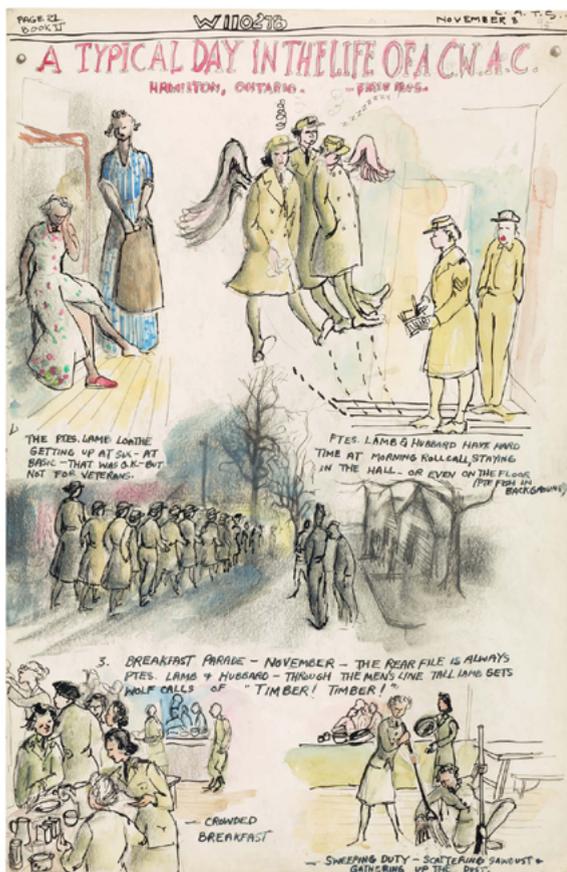


INDEPENDENT STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITY WOMEN IN PROPAGANDA POSTERS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Molly Lamb Bobak (1920–2014) was the first female war artist in Canada. Canadians played an important role in the Second World War, both on the home front and overseas, and people from all parts of Canada participated in and were affected by the war in countless ways. Molly Lamb (then unmarried) became a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps in the fall of 1942 and served there until 1946.

Lamb documented her experiences in a journal known as *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M.* Her sketches and paintings provide us with a detailed account of Canadian women's involvement in the Second World War.

In this activity, you will compare and contrast the portrayal of women in a Canadian Women's Army Corps recruitment poster with a work from Lamb's personal war diary.



Molly Lamb, "A Typical Day in the Life of a C.W.A.C.," November 8, 1943, from *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M., 1942–45*, pencil and watercolour with pen and black ink on wove paper. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, gift of Molly Lamb Bobak, (1990-255 DAP 00080). © Library and Archives Canada. Photo credit: Library and Archives Canada.



Molly Lamb, "Molly Lamb Enters the Army," November 22, 1942, from *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M., 1942–45*, pencil and watercolour with pen and black ink on wove paper. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, gift of Molly Lamb Bobak, (1990-255 DAP 000703). © Library and Archives Canada. Photo credit: Library and Archives Canada.

Materials Needed

- Computer, iPad, etc.
- Paper
- Pencils, pencil crayons, or markers

Learning Goals

1. I can use art and cultural artifacts to understand the experiences of people from history.
2. I can discuss the various roles women held during the Second World War.
3. I can carefully analyze a printed work to understand its audience and intent.
4. I can use my critical-thinking and creative skills to analyze an artwork.
5. I can research the historical and social impact of a specific concept and communicate my understanding.
6. I can show empathy, care, and understanding when researching the experiences of people from history.
7. I am respectful and use appropriate language in my responses on the discussion board.

Success Criteria

1. My written work shows clear evidence of research and understanding of the specific time period and place.
2. My written work shows clear evidence of research and understanding of the portrayal of women in a Canadian Women's Army Corps recruitment poster.
3. My written work is thoughtful, clear, and edited.
4. I am respectful and use appropriate language in my responses on the discussion board.

LEARNING PLAN

Step 1: 5 min

Watch the Art Canada Institute learning video on Molly Lamb Bobak. <https://vimeo.com/456803908>

Think about what you found interesting about the artist Molly Lamb Bobak. Post your thoughts on the collaborative discussion board or share them directly with your teacher using the preferred method of communication. Treat this space as you would a class discussion. Write clearly, structuring your thoughts carefully and paying attention to proper writing conventions.



Molly Lamb painting in London, England, July 12, 1945. Photograph by Karen Margaret Hermiston, Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (1967-052 NPC). © Library and Archives Canada. Photo courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.

Step 2: 15 min

Bobak was a member of the Canadian Women's Army Corps, a non-combatant branch of the Canadian Army, exclusively for women—it was established during the Second World War as part of expanding Canada's war effort and to relieve men from non-combatant roles in the Canadian armed forces. Women did jobs such as driving transport vehicles, cooking in hospitals, and working as typists, stenographers, and telephone operators.

Look at "Shoulder to Shoulder — Canadian Women's Army Corps," 1944, a recruiting poster for the Canadian Women's Army Corps, and answer the following questions.

- What do you see?
- In what roles are women serving?
- What do you notice about the portrayal of women in this poster?
- How would these scenes look in real life? How realistic is the poster?
- What has been exaggerated or made glamorous in this poster? What is the purpose of this?

Post your answers to these questions on the collaborative discussion board or share them directly with your teacher using the preferred method of communication.



"Shoulder to Shoulder — Canadian Women's Army Corps," a recruiting poster for the Canadian Women's Army Corps, 1944. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (1992-622 DAP 003).

Step 3: 15 min

Look at “For Ladies W110278 Presents 1943 Fall Fashions,” 1943, from *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M.* and answer the following questions.

- What do you see?
- What do you notice about the portrayal of women in this image?
- How realistic is the portrayal of women in this image vs. how they would look in real life?
- What has been exaggerated or made glamorous in this image? What is the purpose of this?

Post your answers to these questions on the collaborative discussion board or share them directly with your teacher using the preferred method of communication.



Molly Lamb, “For Ladies W110278 Presents 1943 Fall Fashions,” 1943, from *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M.*, 1942–45, pencil and watercolour with pen and black ink on wove paper. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (R5336-21-3-E). © Molly Lamb Bobak. Photo credit: Library and Archives Canada.

Step 4: 8 min

Look again at “For Ladies W110278 Presents 1943 Fall Fashions,” 1943, from *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M.* and “Shoulder to Shoulder — Canadian Women’s Army Corps,” 1944, and answer the following questions.

- How is Bobak’s work different from the recruitment poster? What makes you say that?

Post your answers to these questions on the collaborative discussion board or share them directly with your teacher using the preferred method of communication.

Step 5: 10 min

To conclude, respond to the following questions and post your responses to the collaborative discussion board.

- What message is Lamb communicating through her images? What was her viewpoint of the role of women in the Second World War? What makes you say that? Support your answer with evidence from the two images explored in this activity.

Take time to look at the collaborative discussion board space. Review at least two other posts and provide your peers with two stars (something they have captured well) and a wish (something you wish you had seen in their work) as feedback.



“Shoulder to Shoulder — Canadian Women’s Army Corps,” a recruiting poster for the Canadian Women’s Army Corps, 1944. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (1992-622 DAP 003).



Molly Lamb, “For Ladies W110278 Presents 1943 Fall Fashions,” 1943, from *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M.*, 1942–45, pencil and watercolour with pen and black ink on wove paper. Collection of Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa (R5336-21-3-E). © Molly Lamb Bobak. Photo credit: Library and Archives Canada.