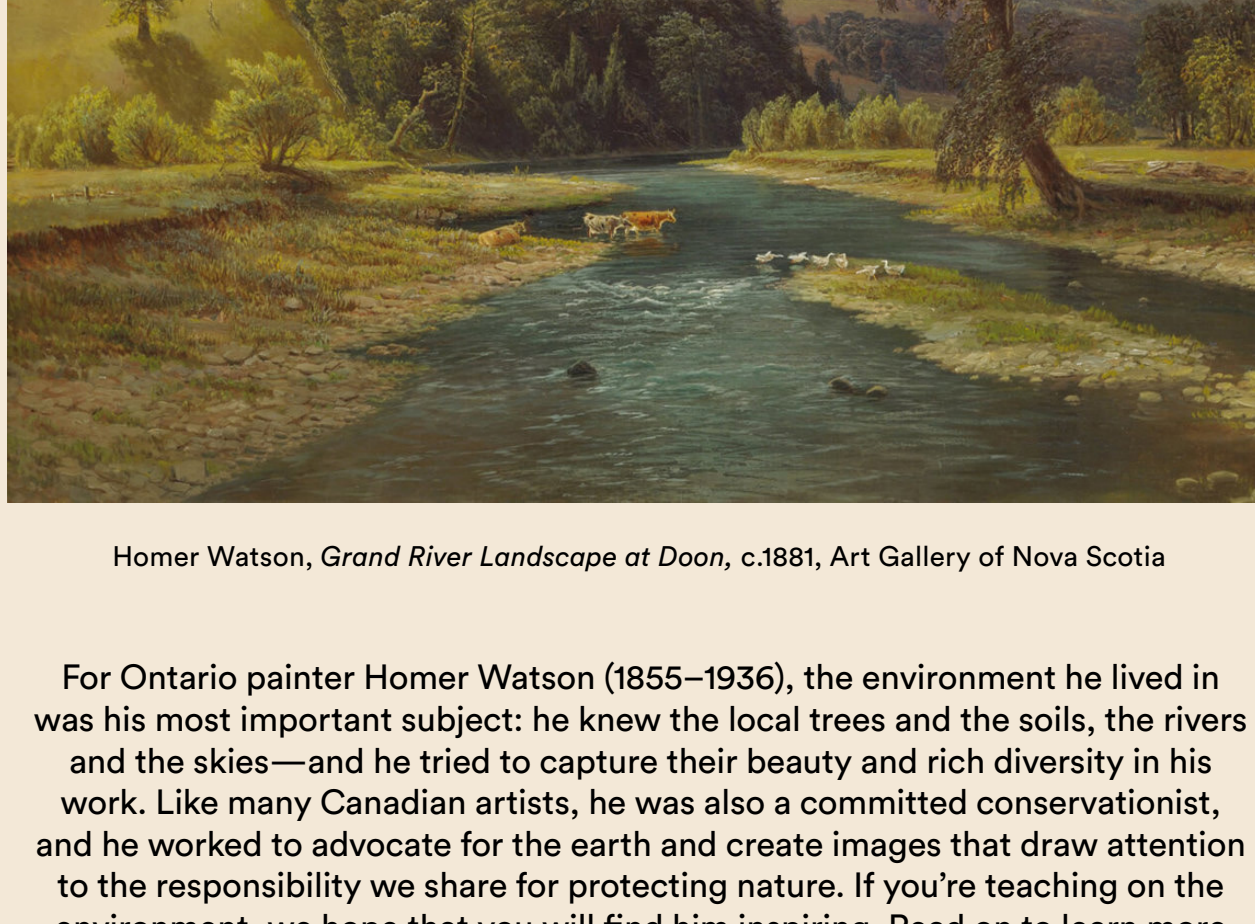


# BRING TOGETHER CANADIAN ART AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

*Get creative with lessons on land and nature  
inspired by our country's visual culture*

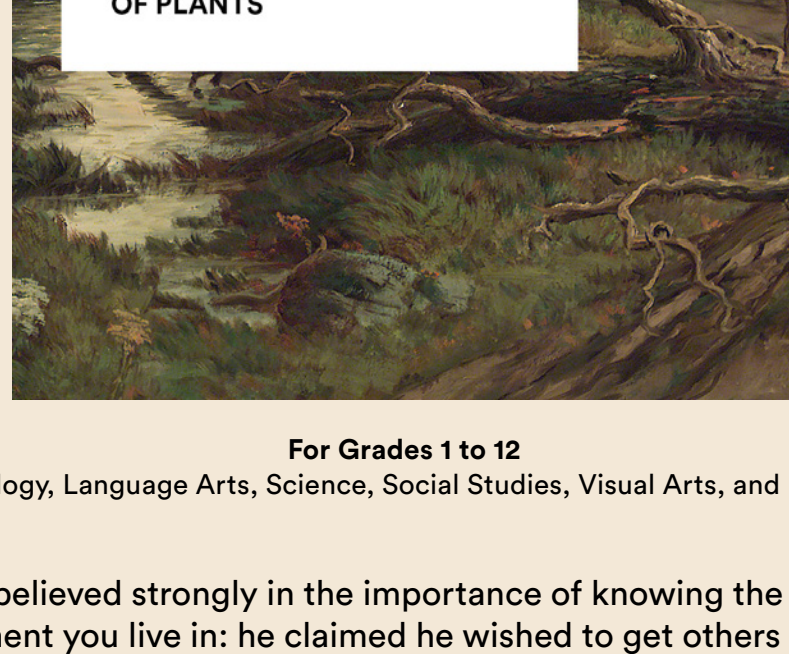


Homer Watson, *Grand River Landscape at Doon*, c.1881, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

For Ontario painter Homer Watson (1855–1936), the environment he lived in was his most important subject: he knew the local trees and the soils, the rivers and the skies—and he tried to capture their beauty and rich diversity in his work. Like many Canadian artists, he was also a committed conservationist, and he worked to advocate for the earth and create images that draw attention to the responsibility we share for protecting nature. If you're teaching on the environment, we hope that you will find him inspiring. Read on to learn more about resources for teaching on Watson as well as other artists who were equally drawn to the natural world.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

## LEARNING THE FORMS OF THE EARTH

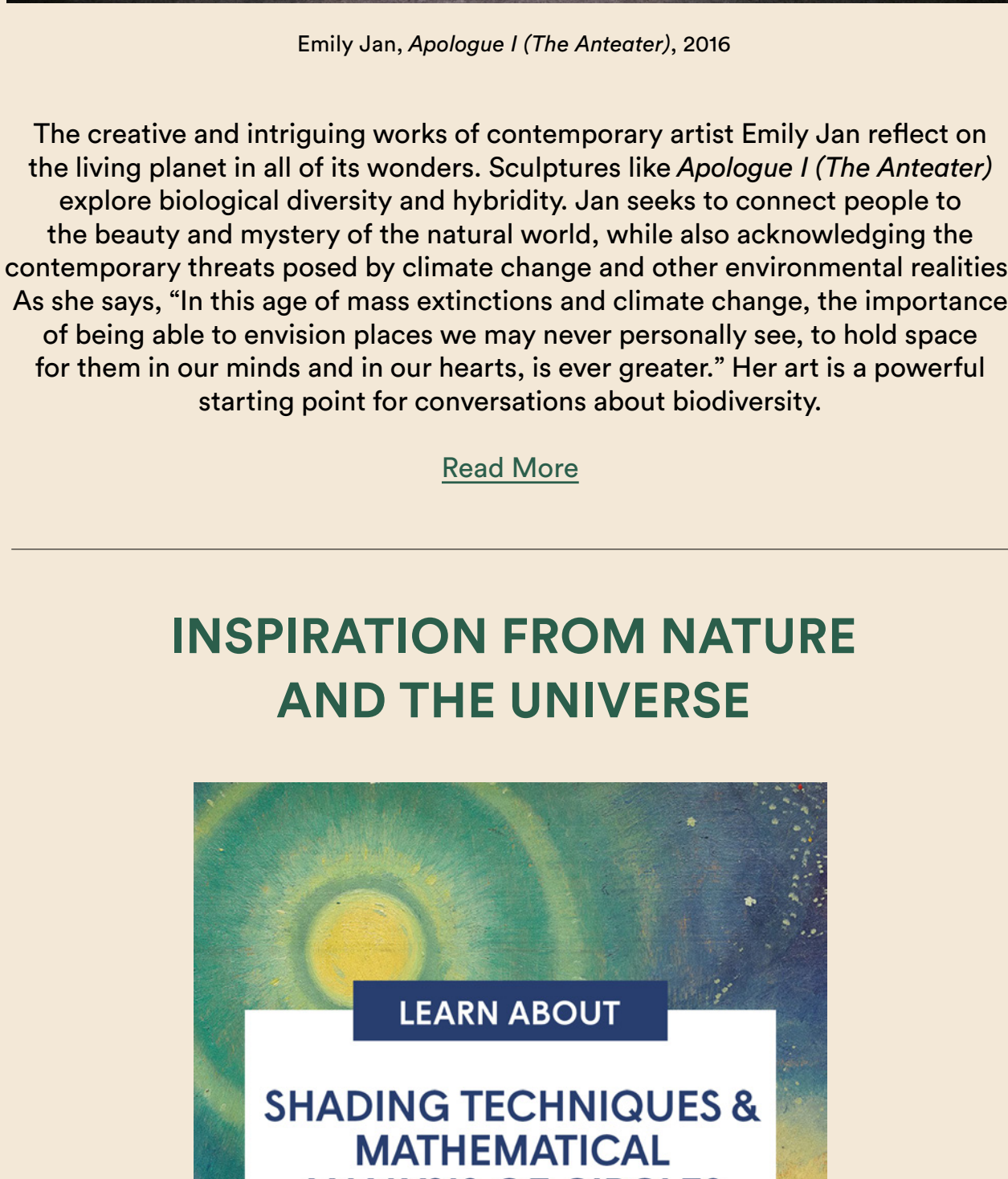


**For Grades 1 to 12**  
Biology, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Visual Arts, and more

Watson believed strongly in the importance of knowing the lands and environment you live in: he claimed he wished to get others to feel the forms of the earth, and he wanted to do so in his art. Designed to be done online and at home, this independent student learning activity takes Watson's work as a starting point for studying the characteristics of plants, and integrates experiential learning, analysis, discussion, writing, and sketching to make sure students know everything there is to know about the flora in their local communities.

[Download the Independent Student Learning Activity Here](#)

## EXPLORE BIODIVERSITY WITH ARTIST EMILY JAN



Emily Jan, *Apologue I (The Anteater)*, 2016

The creative and intriguing works of contemporary artist Emily Jan reflect on the living planet in all of its wonders. Sculptures like *Apologue I (The Anteater)* explore biological diversity and hybridity. Jan seeks to connect people to the beauty and mystery of the natural world, while also acknowledging the contemporary threats posed by climate change and other environmental realities. As she says, “In this age of mass extinctions and climate change, the importance of being able to envision places we may never personally see, to hold space for them in our minds and in our hearts, is ever greater.” Her art is a powerful starting point for conversations about biodiversity.

[Read More](#)

## INSPIRATION FROM NATURE AND THE UNIVERSE

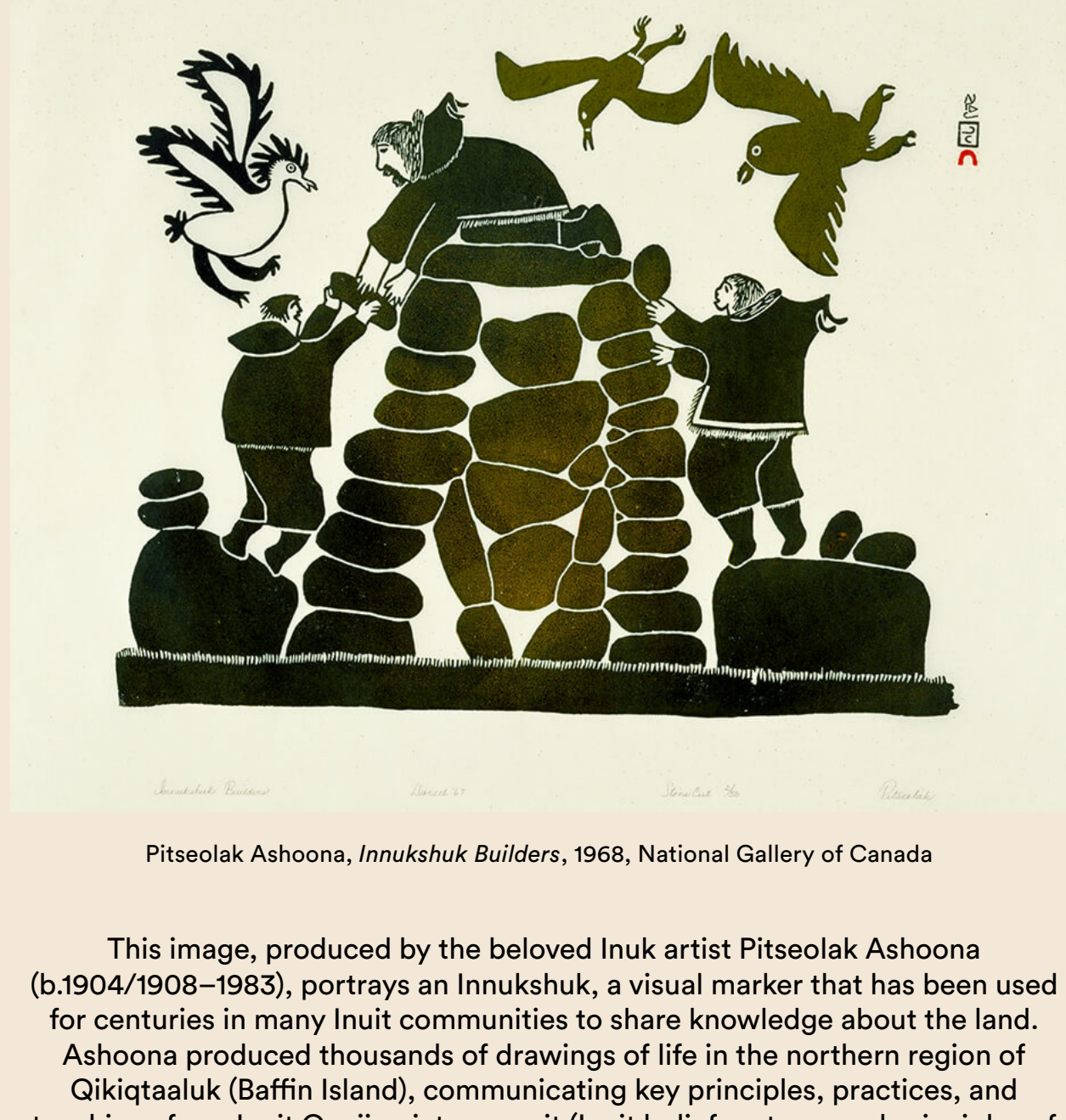


**For Grades 8 to 11**  
Mathematics, Visual Arts, and more

Modern artist Jock Macdonald (1897–1960) was interested in patterns in the environment and the cosmos, and his observations guided his stunning abstract paintings. Our new teacher resource guide “Shading Techniques and Mathematical Analysis of Circles through the Art of Jock Macdonald” invites students to explore his abstract visual language in order to practice using equations to calculate the area and circumference of circles, and to create their own abstract works inspired by the environment.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

## HONOUR INUIT KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAND



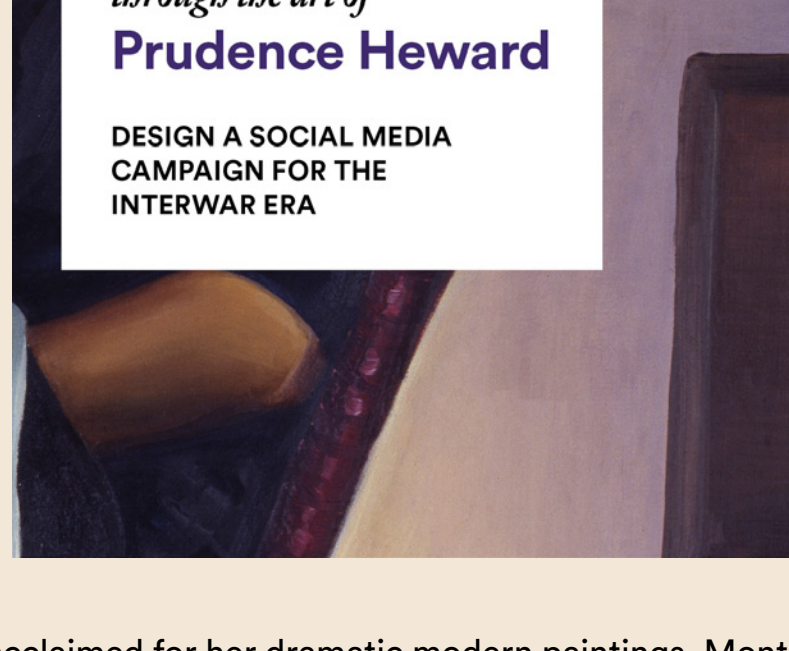
Pitseolak Ashoona, *Innuksuk Builders*, 1968, National Gallery of Canada

This image, produced by the beloved Inuk artist Pitseolak Ashoona (b.1904/1908–1983), portrays an Innuksuk, a visual marker that has been used for centuries in many Inuit communities to share knowledge about the land.

Ashoona produced thousands of drawings of life in the northern region of Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin Island), communicating key principles, practices, and teachings from Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit belief systems and principles of knowledge). Integrating works like this one into Geography and Environmental Studies topics ensures that students enrich their understandings through the consideration of Inuit perspectives.

[Read More about This Work and Artist Here](#)

## IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER...



**DESIGN A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR THE INTERWAR ERA**

Widely acclaimed for her dramatic modern paintings, Montreal artist Prudence Heward (1896–1947) is one of the most important Canadian art artists in our country's history. In this new independent student learning activity, students are invited to explore her work while creating a social media campaign for the interwar era.

As a bilingual organization, we are proud to offer our materials in both French and English, including this newsletter. Use the sign up links below to receive emails in your preferred language.

**SIGN UP**

**S'INSCRIRE**

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please share it.

**SHARE**

**READ PAST NEWSLETTERS**

## ABOUT THE ART CANADA INSTITUTE

Launched in 2013, the Art Canada Institute is the only national institution whose mandate is to promote the study of an inclusive multi-vocal Canadian art history to as broad an audience as possible, in both English and French, within Canada and internationally. The ACI works with more than fifty of Canada's leading art historians, curators, and visual culture experts who are dedicated to the creation of authoritative original content on the people, themes, and topics that have defined Canadian art history.

We are creating a central digital resource to tell the world about Canada's most important works of art and where they are located. By functioning as an online art museum, a [digital library](#), and an interactive Canadian art encyclopedia, the ACI is an indispensable resource on Canada's visual heritage.

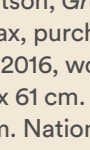
Visit us at [aci-iac.ca](http://aci-iac.ca)

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