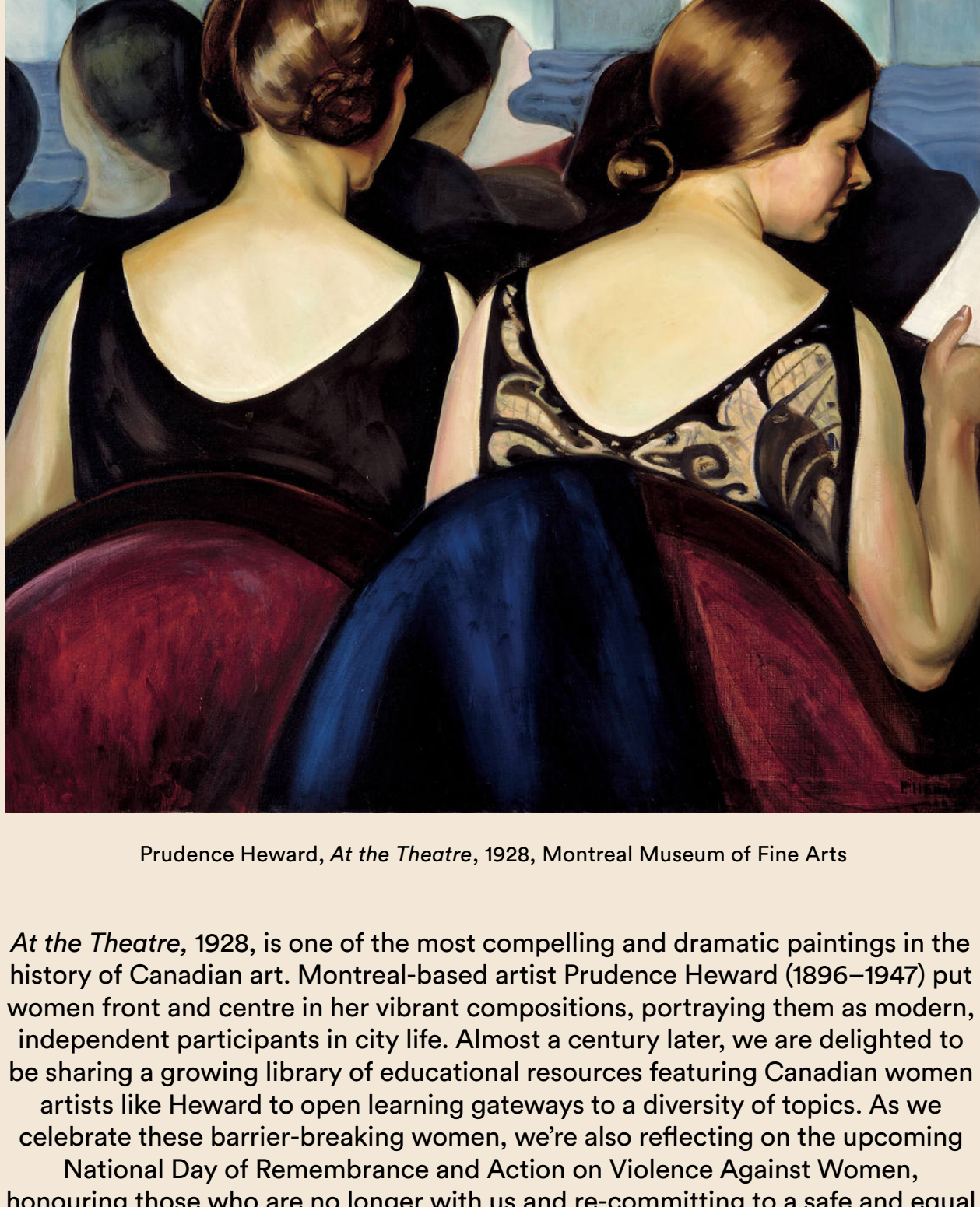


CANADIAN WOMEN ARTISTS AND TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL CHANGE

Shining a light on activism, feminism, and world views through our country's visual culture



Prudence Heward, *At the Theatre*, 1928, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

At the Theatre, 1928, is one of the most compelling and dramatic paintings in the history of Canadian art. Montreal-based artist Prudence Heward (1896–1947) put women front and centre in her vibrant compositions, portraying them as modern, independent participants in city life. Almost a century later, we are delighted to be sharing a growing library of educational resources featuring Canadian women artists like Heward to open learning gateways to a diversity of topics. As we celebrate these barrier-breaking women, we're also reflecting on the upcoming National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, honouring those who are no longer with us and re-committing to a safe and equal place for all women in Canada. In this newsletter, we explore learning activities, artists, and community activists to get your students inspired by the power of women and social change in Canada.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN



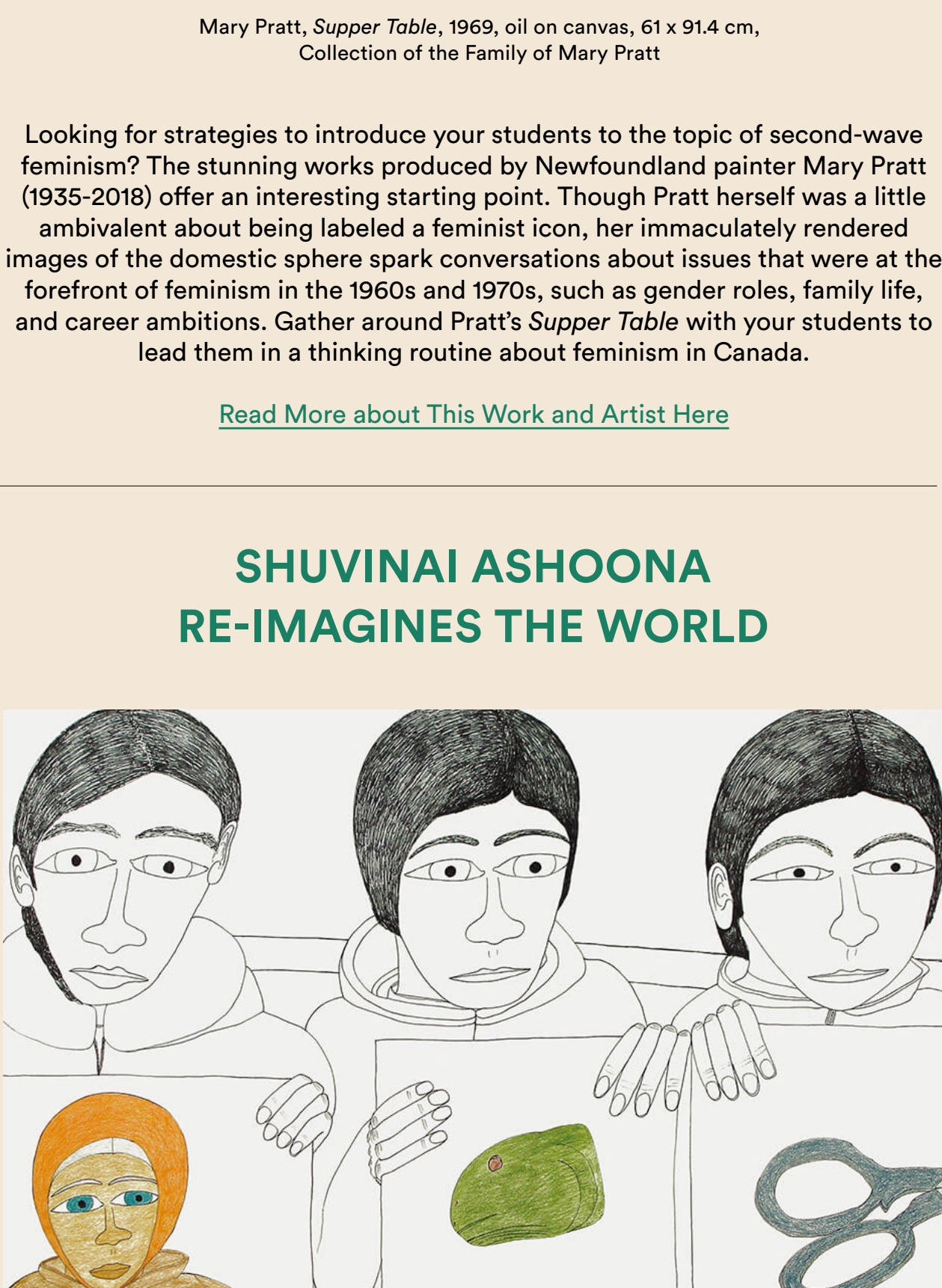
For Grades 1 to 12

English, Media Studies, Social Studies, Visual Arts, the Writer's Craft, and more

Prudence Heward was best known for vibrant, modern portraits of strong and independent female subjects. She was one of the famed Beaver Hall artists, a group working in Montreal who claimed a historic number of women as affiliates, and her paintings captured the spirit of some of the seismic shifts occurring for women in the early twentieth century. Our Independent Student Learning Activity "Design a Social Media Campaign for the Interwar Era" invites students to explore the history of women's rights in this country through a creative project inspired by the media of the present.

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

MARY PRATT AND CHALLENGES TO FEMINISM

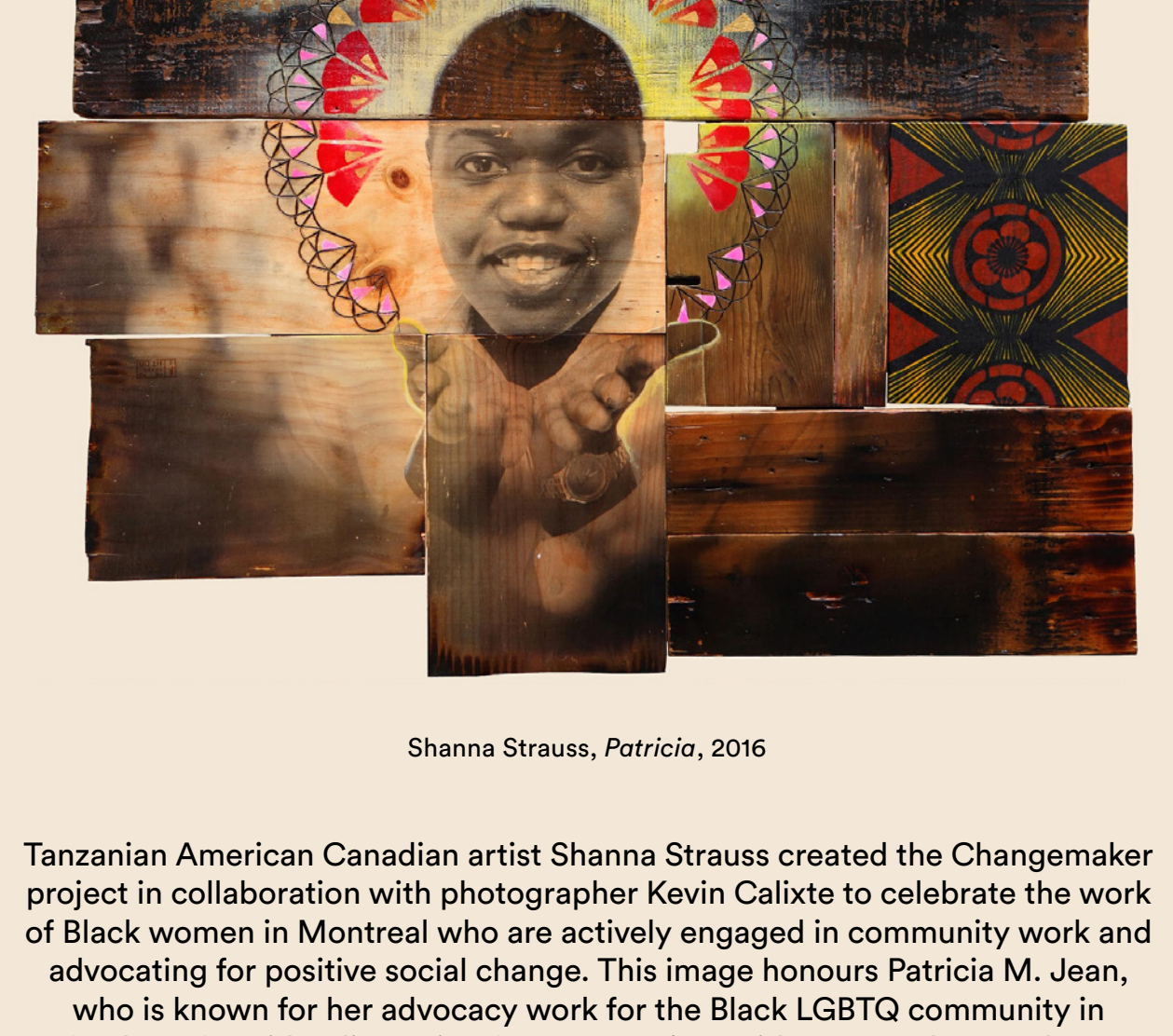


Mary Pratt, *Supper Table*, 1969, oil on canvas, 61 x 91.4 cm, Collection of the Family of Mary Pratt

Looking for strategies to introduce your students to the topic of second-wave feminism? The stunning works produced by Newfoundland painter Mary Pratt (1935–2018) offer an interesting starting point. Though Pratt herself was a little ambivalent about being labeled a feminist icon, her immaculately rendered images of the domestic sphere spark conversations about issues that were at the forefront of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s, such as gender roles, family life, and career ambitions. Gather around Pratt's *Supper Table* with your students to lead them in a thinking routine about feminism in Canada.

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

SHUVINAI ASHOONA RE-IMAGINES THE WORLD

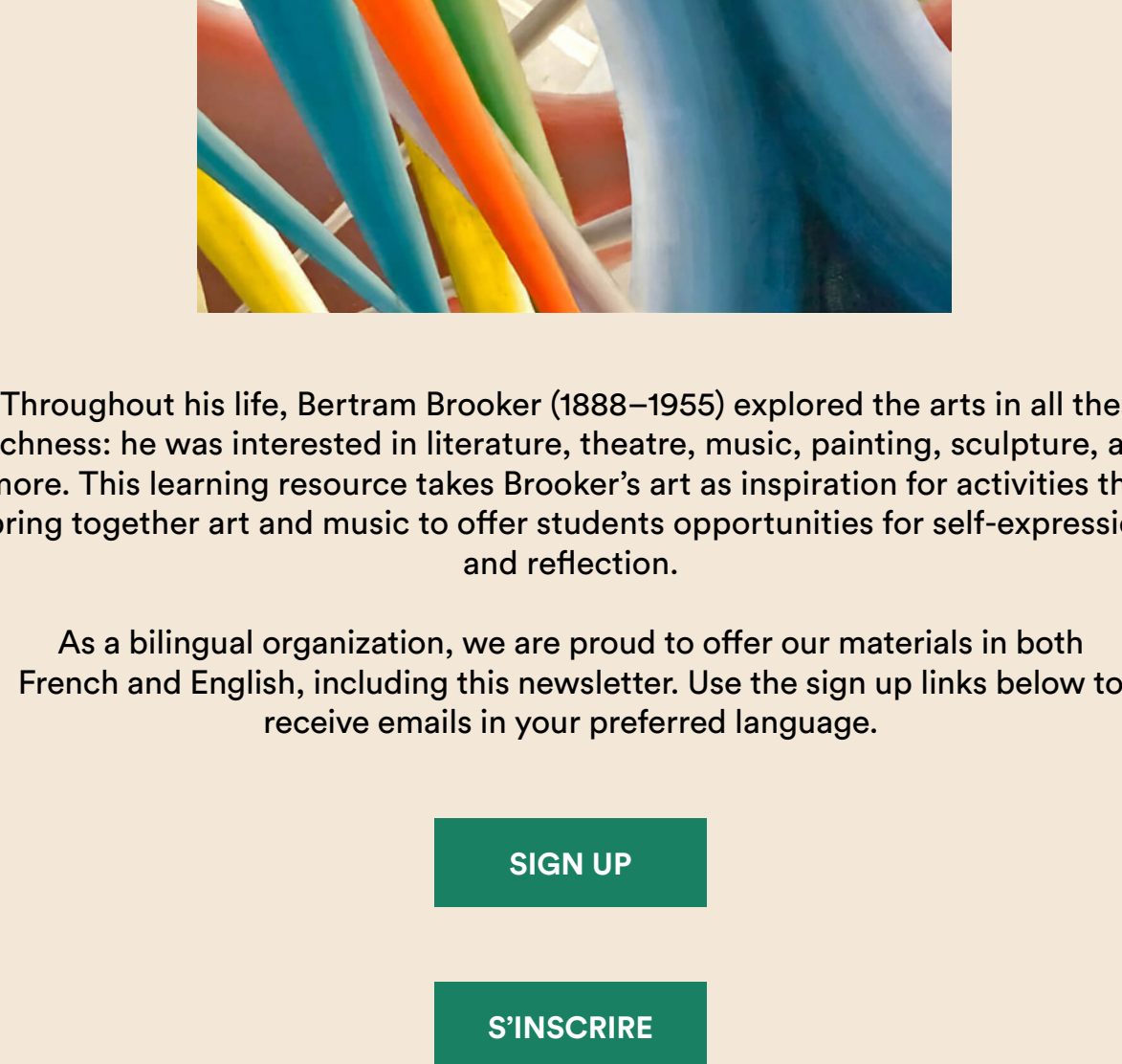


Shuvina Ashoona, *Three Cousins*, 2005, private collection

The vibrant works of contemporary Inuk artist Shuvina Ashoona (b.1961) invite us to consider creative pathways into re-imagining our world, with women at the forefront. A third-generation artist from Kinngait, Nunavut, Ashoona is part of a long-standing artistic legacy of Inuit women changing the landscape of contemporary art in Canada. In *Three Cousins*, 2005, this heritage is commemorated through an image of the artist standing with her cousins Siassie Kenneally (1969–2018) and Annie Pootoogook (1969–2016), as all three hold up their creations. Together, they have made an extraordinary contribution to Canadian art.

[View an Online Exhibition of Shuvina Ashoona's Work Here](#)

CHANGEMAKERS



Shanna Strauss, *Patricia*, 2016

Tanzanian American Canadian artist Shanna Strauss created the Changemaker project in collaboration with photographer Kevin Calixte to celebrate the work of Black women in Montreal who are actively engaged in community work and advocating for positive social change. This image honours Patricia M. Jean, who is known for her advocacy work for the Black LGBTQ community in Quebec. Consider discussing Strauss's project with your students to learn more about the leaders she recognizes and to think about Changemakers in students' own communities.

[Read More about This Artist Here](#)

IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER...



Throughout his life, Bertram Brooker (1888–1955) explored the arts in all their richness: he was interested in literature, theatre, music, painting, sculpture, and more. This learning resource takes Brooker's art as inspiration for activities that bring together art and music to offer students opportunities for self-expression and reflection.

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.

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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

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