
GET TO KNOW THE ARTIST PRUDENCE HEWARD

0:01

Modern artist Prudence Heward is best known for her modern representations of women in the 1920s and 1930s.

0:10

She painted women of different races, and her paintings often showed women in public, taking a confident stance.

0:20

Born into a wealthy family in Montreal, Quebec, she became interested in art at the age of twelve, taking drawing lessons at the Art Association of Montreal.

0:33

When the First World War broke out in 1914, Heward's brothers Jim and Chilion enlisted and were sent overseas.

Heward's portrait of Jim.

0:43

To support the war effort, Heward, her sister Honor, and her mother went to England to work for the Red Cross.

0:52

When Heward returned to Canada in 1919, she enrolled again at the Art Association of Montreal.

Close friend and fellow artist Mabel Lockerby.

1:03

A few years later she became involved with the Beaver Hall Group—an association of modern artists who became her friends and colleagues.

Beaver Hall Hill.

1:14

Many group members were inspired by modern city life and they often painted urban subjects.

1:26

Heward never married, a decision that enabled her to devote herself to her art.

1:34

At the time, married women were often discouraged from pursuing a career by their husbands and social norms.

1:42

She chose to paint women in modern spaces, such as at a café and at a theatre, instead of within traditional domestic settings in the role of housewife or mother.

Here she represents a woman in a bathing suit

3:09

“I think that of all the arts in Canada painting shows more vitality and has a stronger Canadian feeling.”
— Prudence Heward