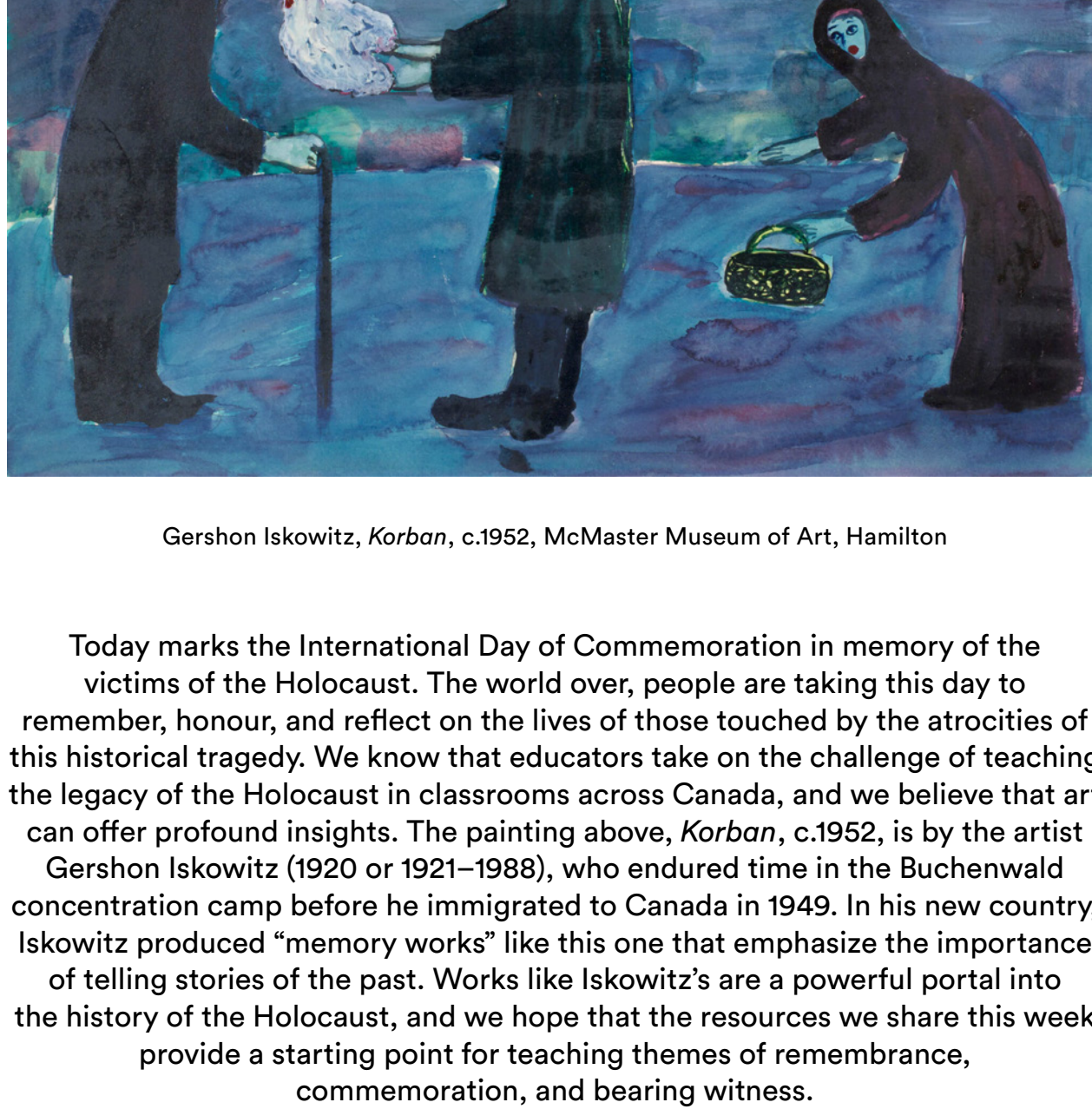


EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

COMMEMORATING, REMEMBERING, AND BEARING WITNESS

International Holocaust Remembrance Day
through the Work of Canada's Artists

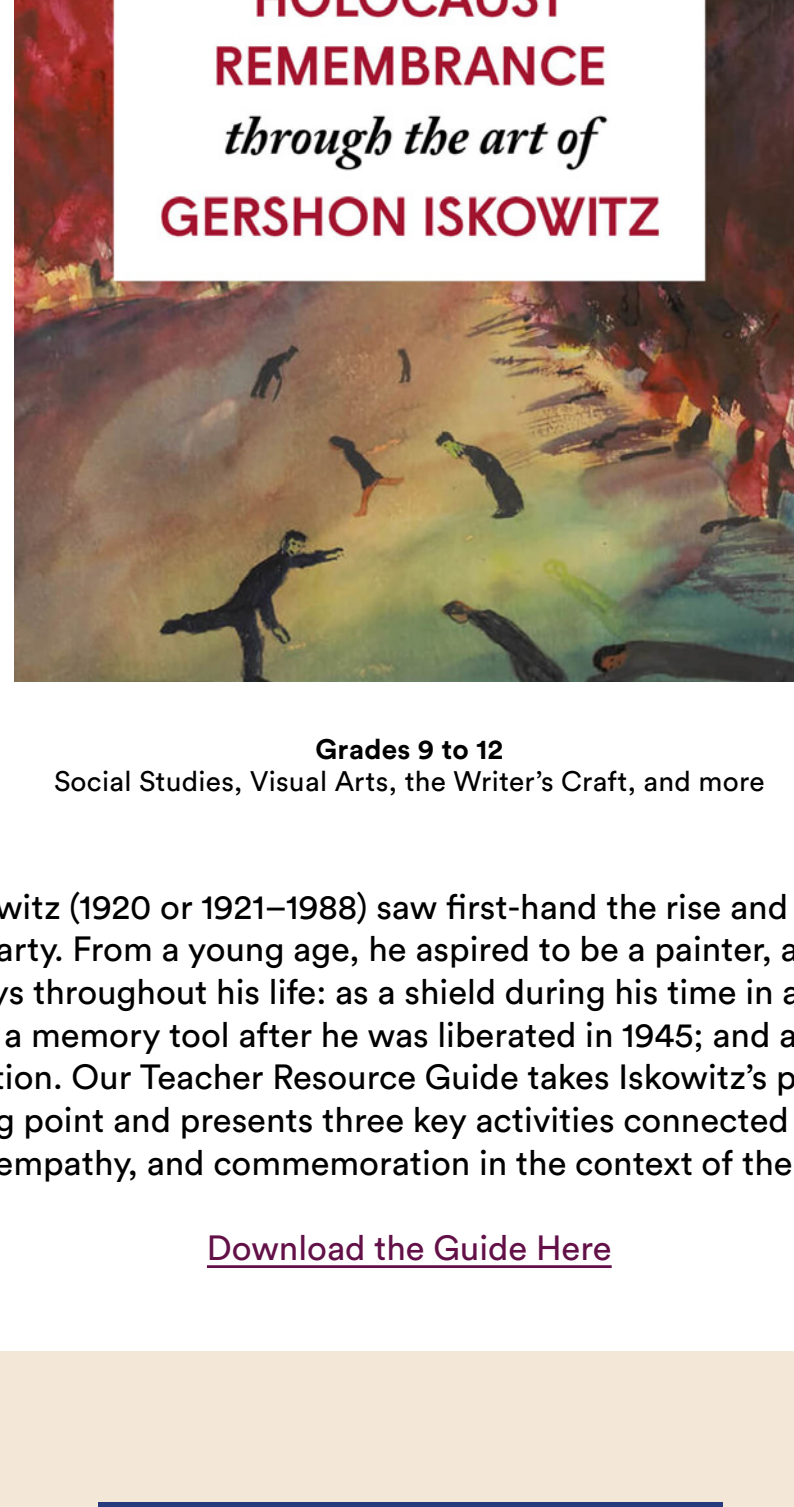


Gershon Iskowitz, *Korban*, c.1952, McMaster Museum of Art, Hamilton

Today marks the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The world over, people are taking this day to remember, honour, and reflect on the lives of those touched by the atrocities of this historical tragedy. We know that educators take on the challenge of teaching the legacy of the Holocaust in classrooms across Canada, and we believe that art can offer profound insights. The painting above, *Korban*, c.1952, is by the artist Gershon Iskowitz (1920 or 1921–1988), who endured time in the Buchenwald concentration camp before he immigrated to Canada in 1949. In his new country, Iskowitz produced “memory works” like this one that emphasize the importance of telling stories of the past. Works like Iskowitz’s are a powerful portal into the history of the Holocaust, and we hope that the resources we share this week provide a starting point for teaching themes of remembrance, commemoration, and bearing witness.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

A Call to Remember



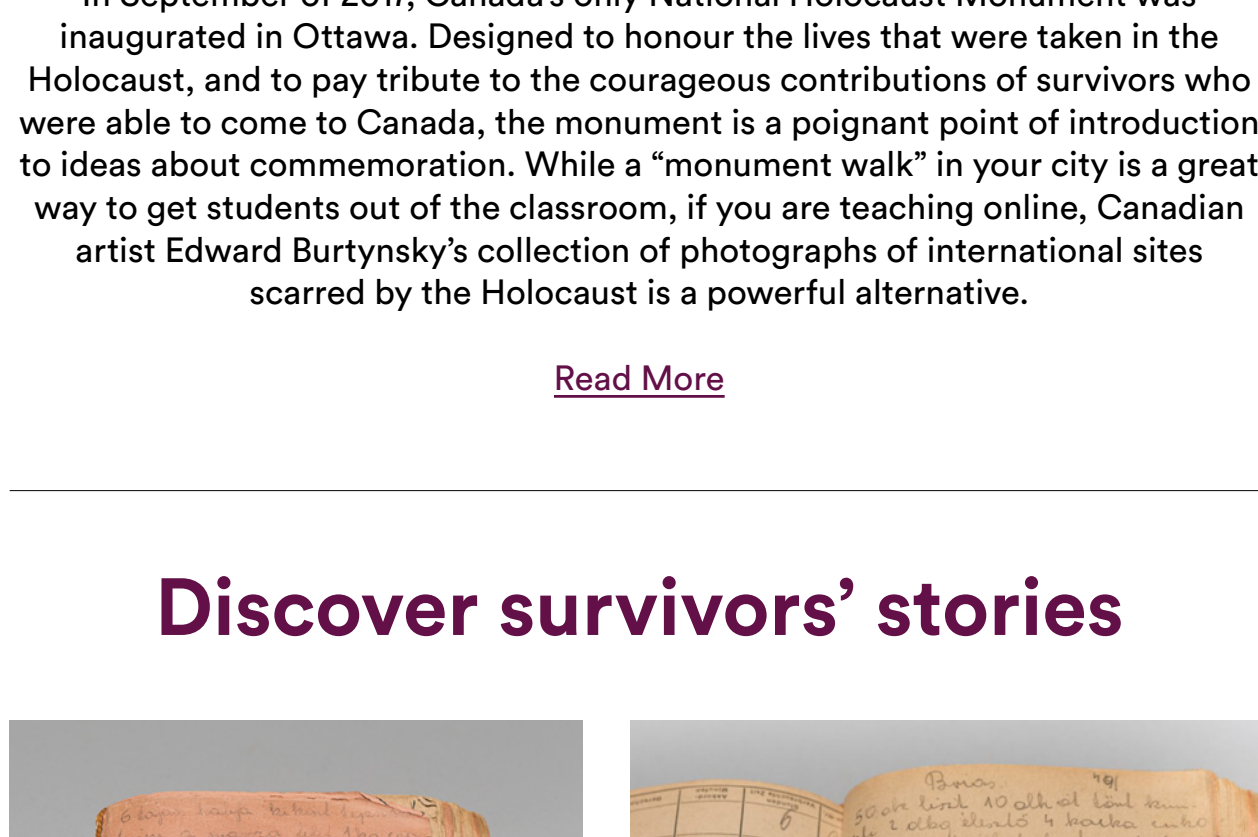
Grades 9 to 12
Social Studies, Visual Arts, the Writer's Craft, and more

Gershon Iskowitz (1920 or 1921–1988) saw first-hand the rise and horrific regime of the Nazi party. From a young age, he aspired to be a painter, and he used art in myriad ways throughout his life: as a shield during his time in a concentration camp; as a memory tool after he was liberated in 1945; and as a form of documentation. Our Teacher Resource Guide takes Iskowitz’s powerful work as a starting point and presents three key activities connected to themes of memory, empathy, and commemoration in the context of the Holocaust.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Teach through monuments

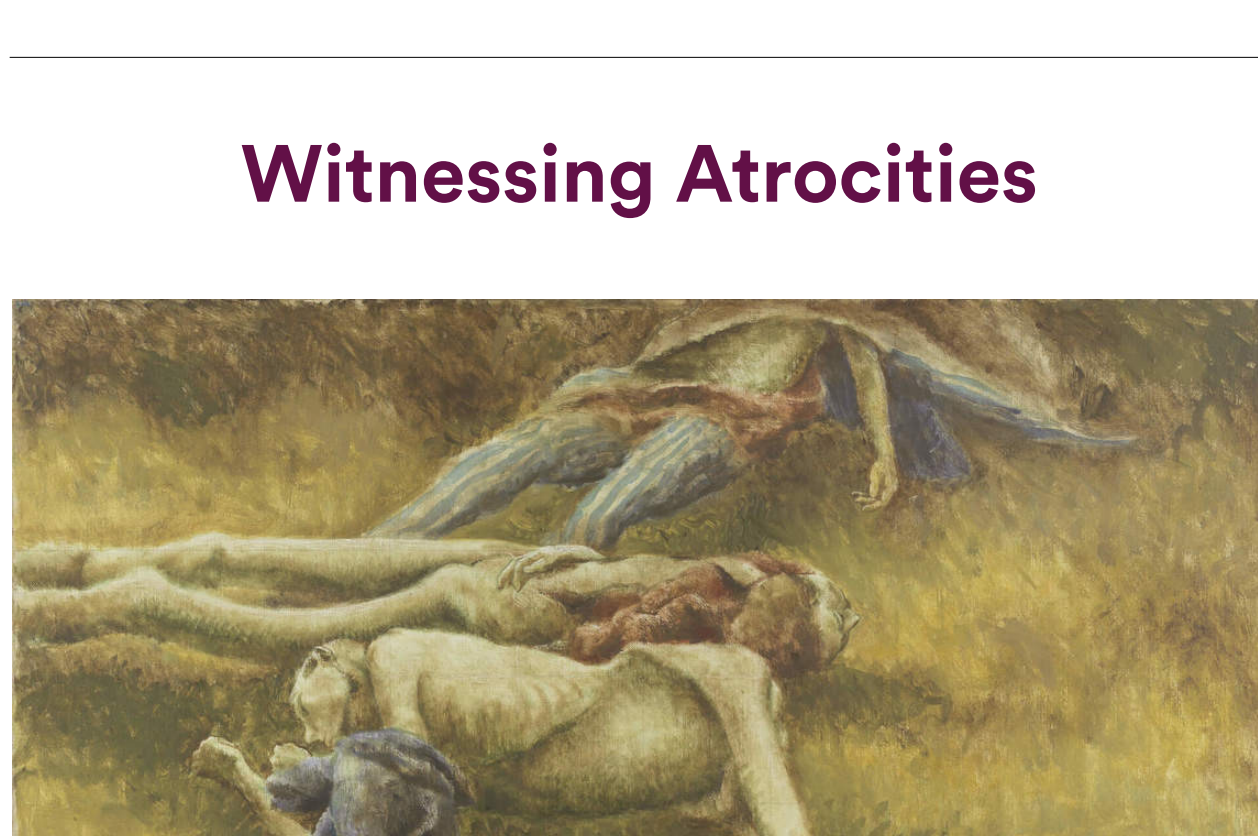


Edward Burtynsky, *Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival*, photograph of Canada's National Holocaust Monument

In September of 2017, Canada's only National Holocaust Monument was inaugurated in Ottawa. Designed to honour the lives that were taken in the Holocaust, and to pay tribute to the courageous contributions of survivors who were able to come to Canada, the monument is a poignant point of introduction to ideas about commemoration. While a “monument walk” in your city is a great way to get students out of the classroom, if you are teaching online, Canadian artist Edward Burtynsky's collection of photographs of international sites scarred by the Holocaust is a powerful alternative.

[Read More](#)

Discover survivors' stories



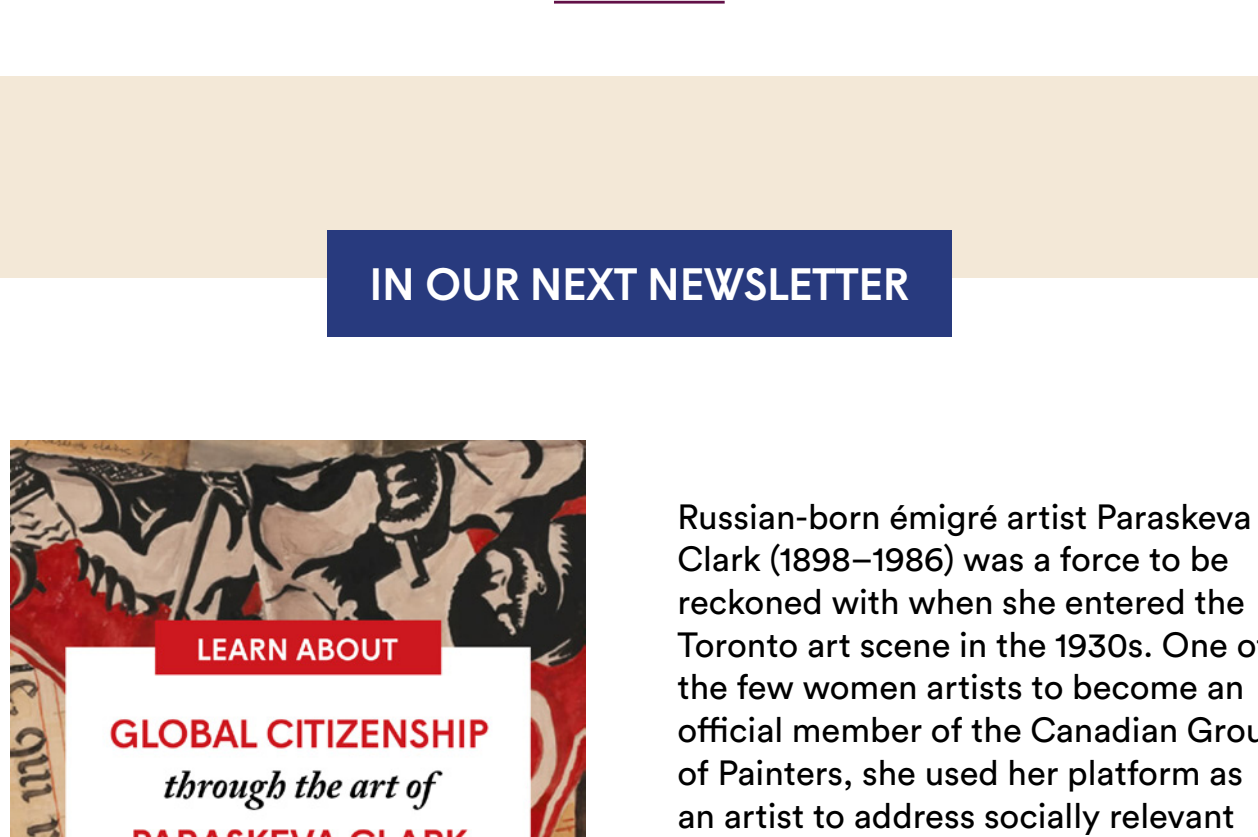
Edith Gluck's Recipe Booklet, Montreal Holocaust Museum

The power of material culture to reach through history and situate us in a different place and time is exceptional. This recipe book belonged to Edith Gluck, who was imprisoned at the Lippstadt concentration camp in Germany. She was part of a group of Hungarian Jewish women who were deported there from Auschwitz, and she wrote down and collected some 200 recipes in this book, hiding it underground so that it would not be found. This remarkable piece of history is part of the Montreal Holocaust Museum's collection.

Their digital resources allow viewers to explore items like this one, and to make meaningful connections to the lives and experiences of survivors. From age-specific education resources to online exhibitions and digitized object collections, this resource is an excellent way of introducing Holocaust history into your virtual classrooms.

[Read More](#)

Witnessing Atrocities

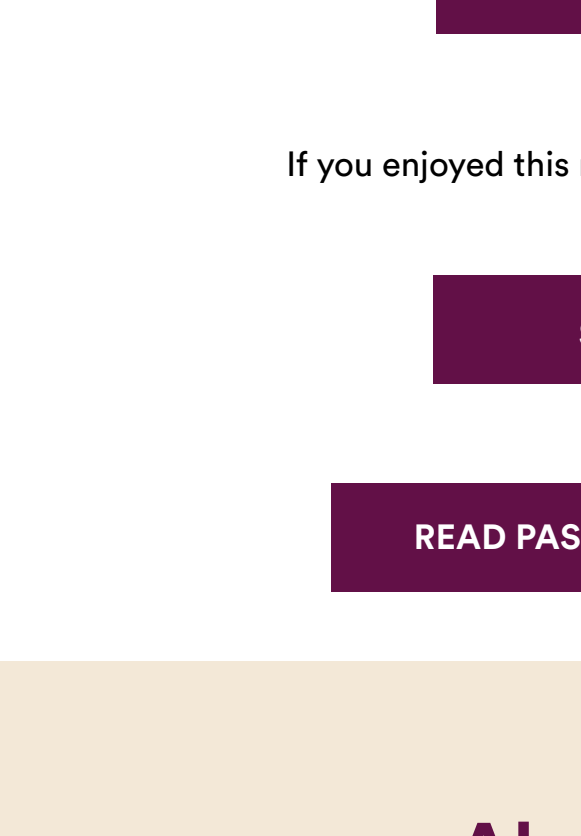


Alex Colville, *Bodies in a Grave, Belsen*, 1946, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa

Knowing who saw and recorded the terrible events of the Holocaust is an important part of understanding what occurred. In Canada, the establishment of the war art program was a way of ensuring the visual documentation of the country's involvement in the Second World War, and the act of bearing witness was thus made visible. Canadian war artist Alex Colville (1920–2013) was profoundly affected by what he saw during the war, including being present at the liberation of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. His haunting work *Bodies in a Grave, Belsen*, 1946, is a stark visualization of Colville's powerful experience and terrible knowledge that he lived with for the rest of his life.

[Read More](#)

IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER



Russian-born émigré artist Paraskeva Clark (1898–1986) was a force to be reckoned with when she entered the Toronto art scene in the 1930s. One of the few women artists to become an official member of the Canadian Group of Painters, she used her platform as an artist to address socially relevant subjects in her work, including the Great Depression, the Spanish Civil War, and the war effort in Russia. In our next newsletter, we introduce you to resources connected to the theme of Community and Citizenship, inspired by Clark's admirable contributions to Canadian art.

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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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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Image Credits: [1] Gershon Iskowitz, *Korban*, c.1952, gouache on board, 43.5 x 53 cm, McMaster Museum of Art, McMaster University, Hamilton, Gift of Gerard Jennings in memory of Walter Moos, 2013 (2013.002.0001). © Gershon Iskowitz Foundation. Photo credit: Robert McNair; [2] Edward Burtynsky, *Landscape of Loss, Memory and Survival*, Photograph of Canada's National Holocaust Monument. [3,4] Edith Gluck's Recipe Booklet, Collection of the Montreal Holocaust Museum. [5] Alex Colville, *Bodies in a Grave, Belsen*, 1946, oil on canvas, 76.3 x 101.6 cm, Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa (19710261-2033). © Canadian War Museum.