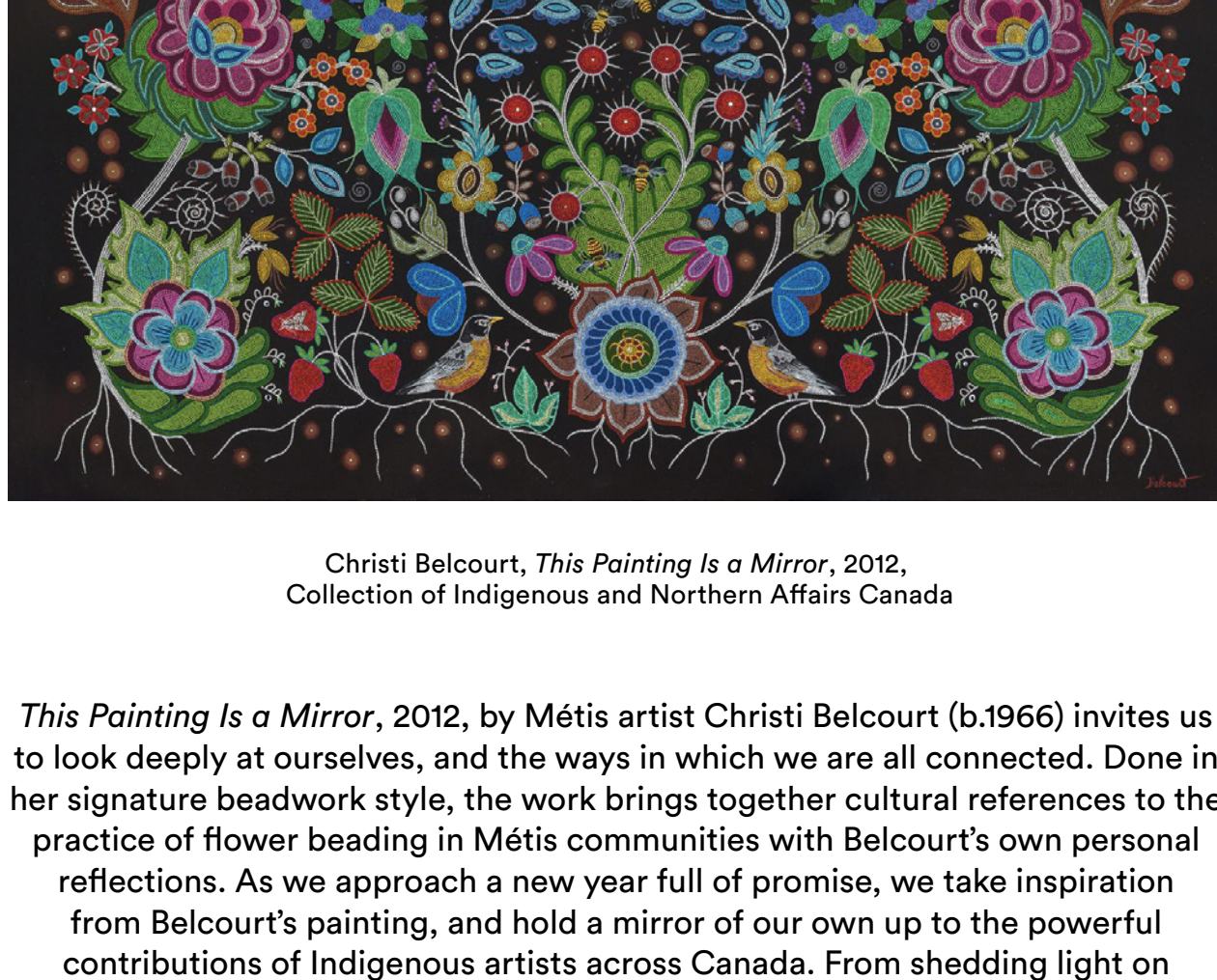


## EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

ARTS OF RESILIENCE  
DECOLONIZING YOUR CURRICULUM

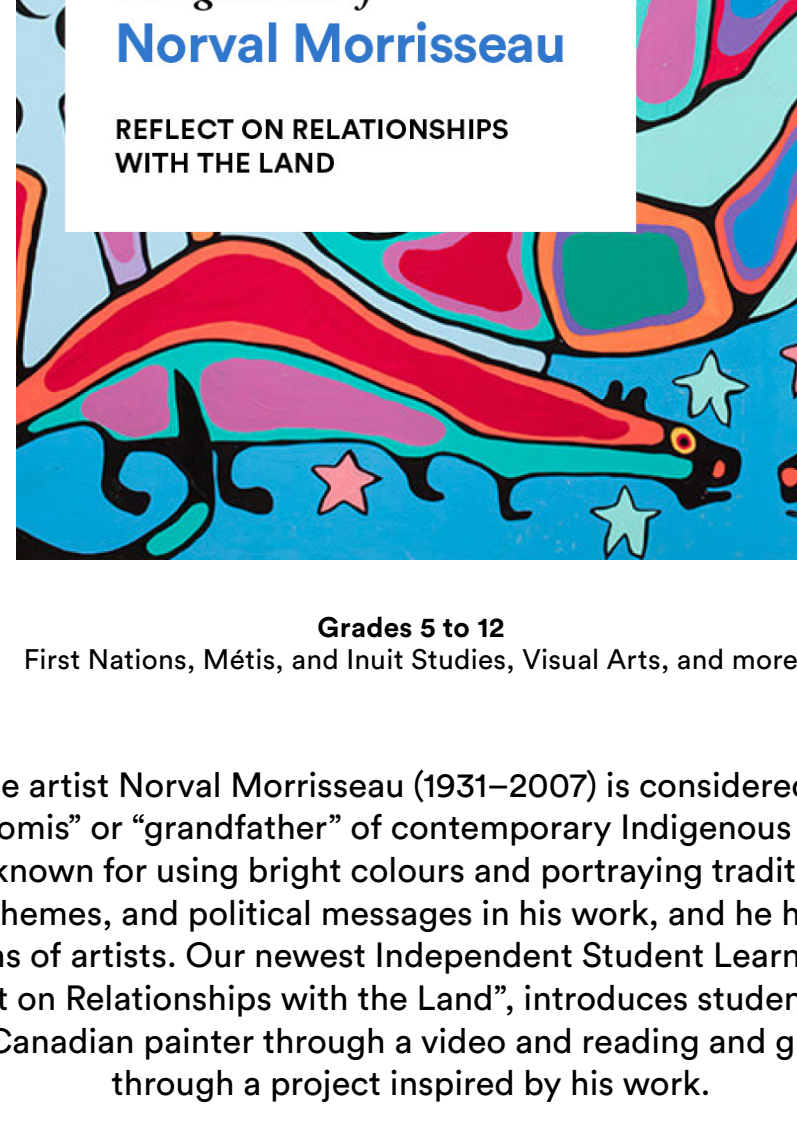
*If you are planning to integrate work by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis artists into your classroom in the new year, here are five artists we think you should know*



Christi Belcourt, *This Painting Is a Mirror*, 2012, Collection of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

*This Painting Is a Mirror*, 2012, by Métis artist Christi Belcourt (b.1966) invites us to look deeply at ourselves, and the ways in which we are all connected. Done in her signature beadwork style, the work brings together cultural references to the practice of flower beading in Métis communities with Belcourt's own personal reflections. As we approach a new year full of promise, we take inspiration from Belcourt's painting, and hold a mirror of our own up to the powerful contributions of Indigenous artists across Canada. From shedding light on difficult histories to envisioning Indigenous futurisms, these artists offer myriad ways of introducing decolonizing strategies into your curricula. We hope that their work inspires you as much as it does us.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

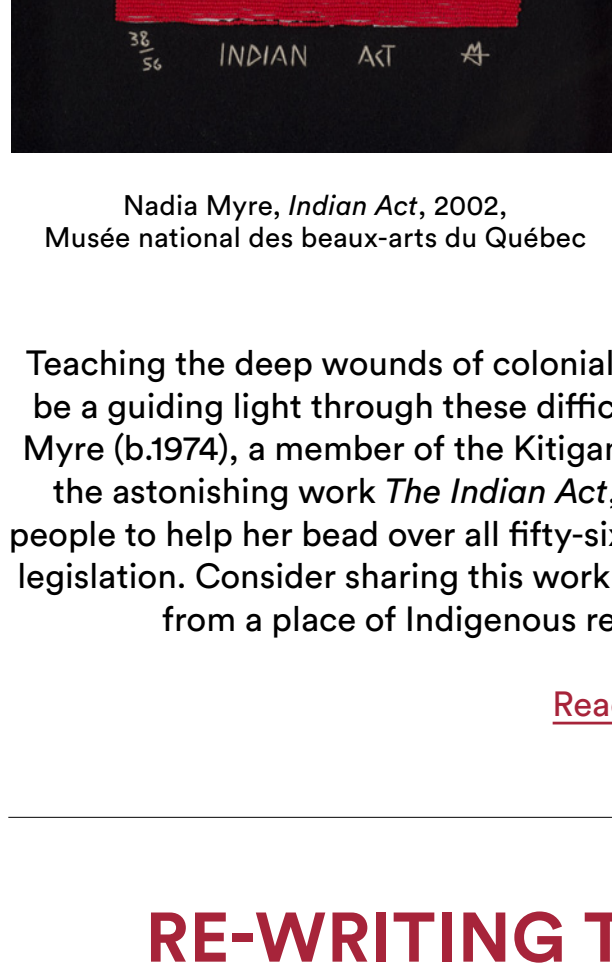
LEARN FROM THE “MISHOMIS”  
OF INDIGENOUS ART

Grades 5 to 12  
First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies, Visual Arts, and more

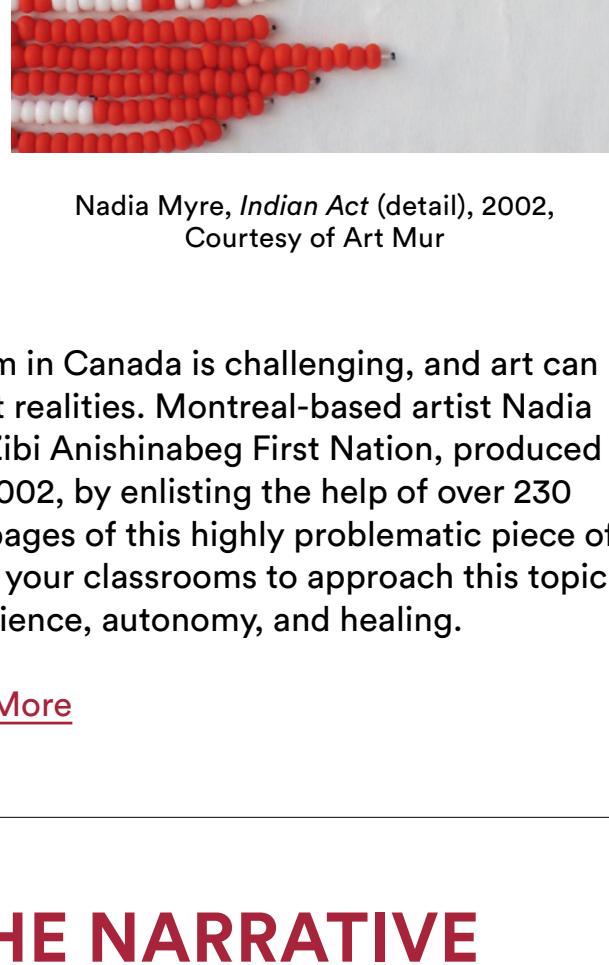
Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau (1931–2007) is considered by many to be the “mishomis” or “grandfather” of contemporary Indigenous art in Canada. He is best known for using bright colours and portraying traditional stories, spiritual themes, and political messages in his work, and he has inspired generations of artists. Our newest Independent Student Learning Activity, “Reflect on Relationships with the Land”, introduces students to this beloved Canadian painter through a video and reading and guides them through a project inspired by his work.

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

## AVENUES TO EXPLORE

EXPLORE DIFFICULT HISTORIES  
WITH ARTIST NADIA MYRE

Nadia Myre, *Indian Act*, 2002, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec



Nadia Myre, *Indian Act* (detail), 2002, Courtesy of Art Mur

Teaching the deep wounds of colonialism in Canada is challenging, and art can be a guiding light through these difficult realities. Montreal-based artist Nadia Myre (b.1974), a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation, produced the astonishing work *The Indian Act*, 2002, by enlisting the help of over 230 people to help her bead over all fifty-six pages of this highly problematic piece of legislation. Consider sharing this work in your classrooms to approach this topic from a place of Indigenous resilience, autonomy, and healing.

[Read More](#)

## RE-WRITING THE NARRATIVE



Robert Houle, *Kanata*, 1992, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

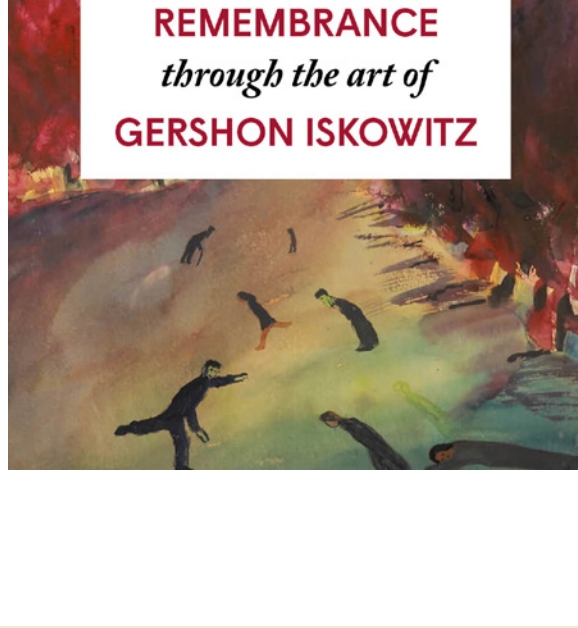
CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS WOMEN  
WITH THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

Skawennati, *Jingle Dancers Assembled*, 2011, Collection of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Contemporary Mohawk artist Skawennati offers us a glimpse into the future with this vision of a 2112 “mega-powwow” in Winnipeg. This work was included in *Resilience*, a 2018 project in which fifty Indigenous women artists had their work featured on public billboards across Canada. As Skawennati's work reminds us, envisioning Indigenous futures is as important as understanding Indigenous histories, and *Resilience* is a phenomenal introduction to some of Canada's most important contemporary artists.

[Read More](#)

## IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER



LEARN ABOUT  
**HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE**  
*through the art of  
GERSHON ISKOWITZ*

In honour of the approaching International Day of Holocaust Remembrance we will be reflecting on Polish-born Canadian artist Gershon Iskowitz (1920 or 1921–1988), who saw first-hand the rise and regime of the Nazi party. The exercises in this guide explore the painter's Holocaust-related art and encourage students to think about documenting and remembering tragic moments in history.

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.

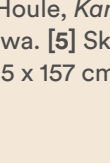
Visit us at [aci-iac.ca](http://aci-iac.ca)

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