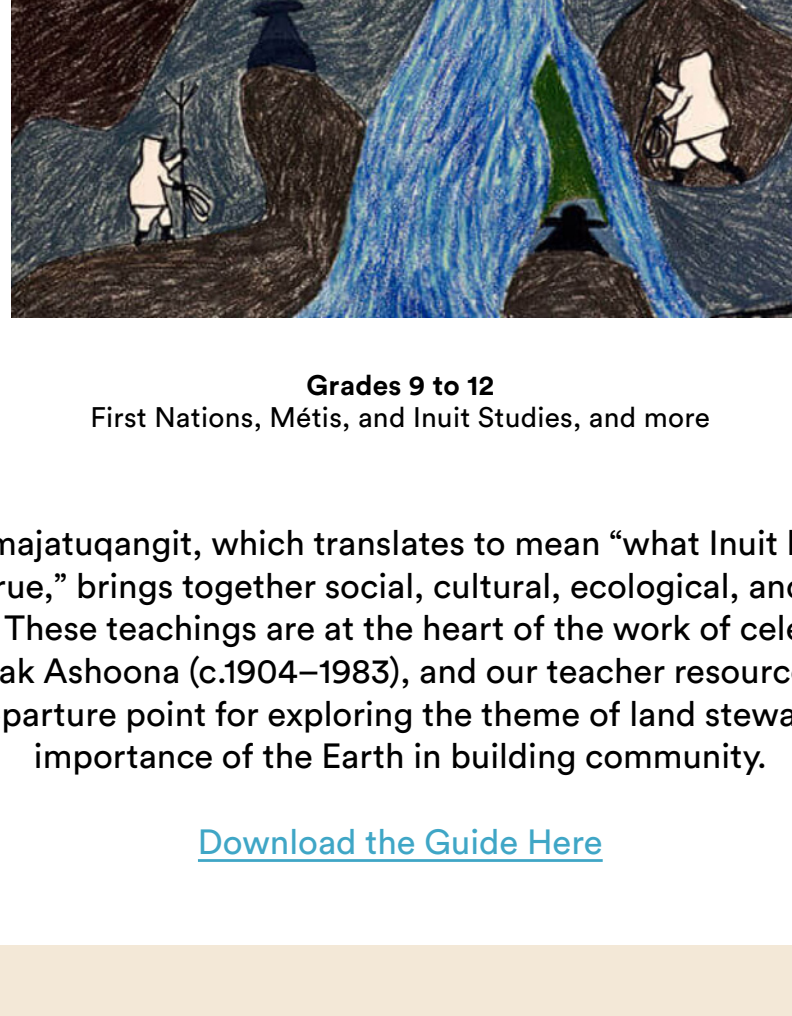


EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

INSPIRE, INFORM,
AND TAKE ACTIONCelebrating Earth Day through the
work of artists in CanadaMeryl McMaster, *On the Edge of This Immensity*, from the series *As Immense as the Sky*, 2019

On April 22nd, schools and educational institutions across the country will be celebrating Earth Day, a day to recognize the wonders of the natural world, to learn about risks to the environment, and to take action in our communities in whatever ways we can. Earth Day is also an opportunity to reflect on the multiple ways that we are all connected to the land. Ottawa-based artist Meryl McMaster (b.1988) turned to nature to seek out knowledge and wisdom about her *nēhiyaw* (Plains Cree) and European (British/Dutch) ancestors while also acknowledging the realities of climate change. In this image, she captures the beauty of the Earth and the histories and knowledge it preserves. McMaster's powerful and haunting work has inspired us to share our land-centered learning resources and to put these five Canadian artists on your Earth Day radar.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

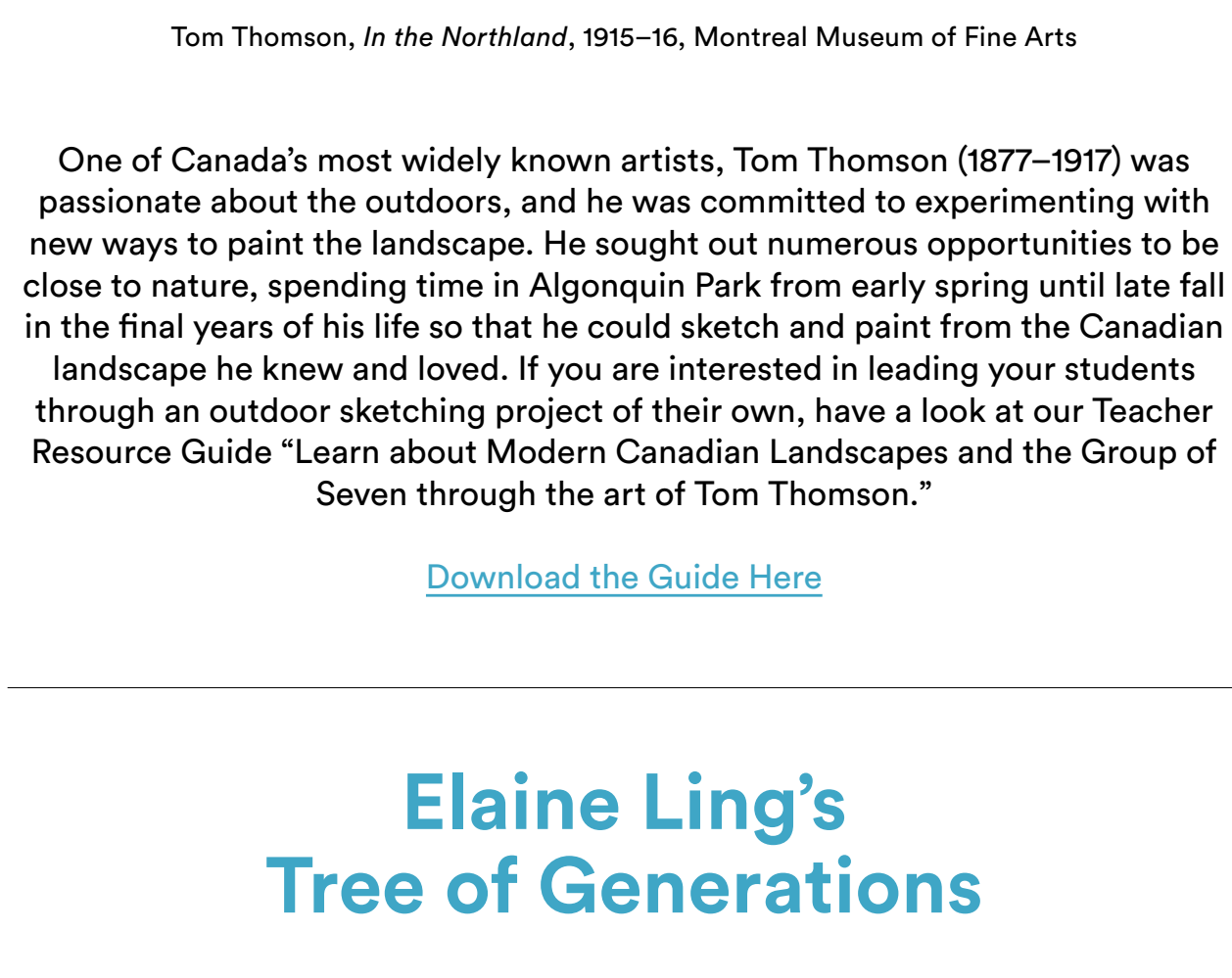
Pitseolak Ashoona and
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Grades 9 to 12
First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies, and more

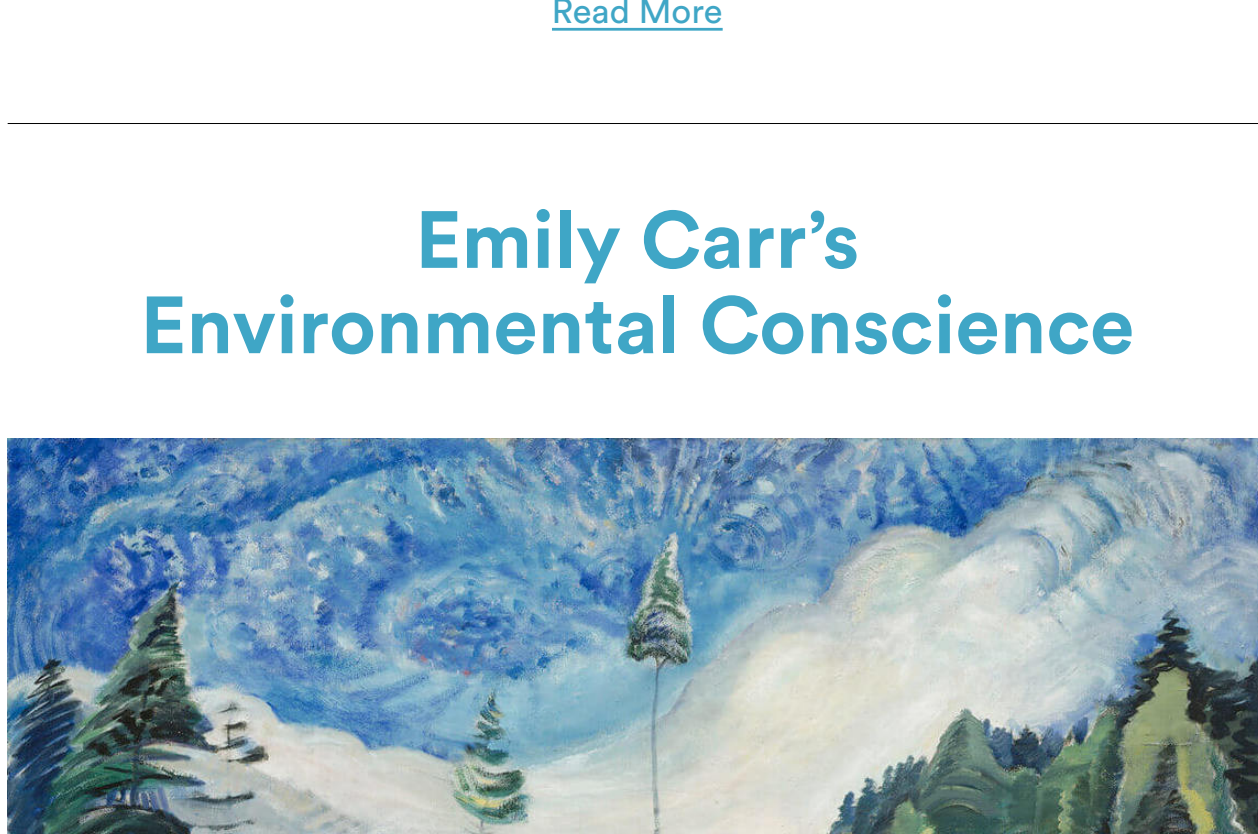
Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which translates to mean "what Inuit have always known to be true," brings together social, cultural, ecological, and cosmological knowledge. These teachings are at the heart of the work of celebrated Inuit artist Pitseolak Ashoona (c.1904–1983), and our teacher resource guide takes her art as a departure point for exploring the theme of land stewardship and the importance of the Earth in building community.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

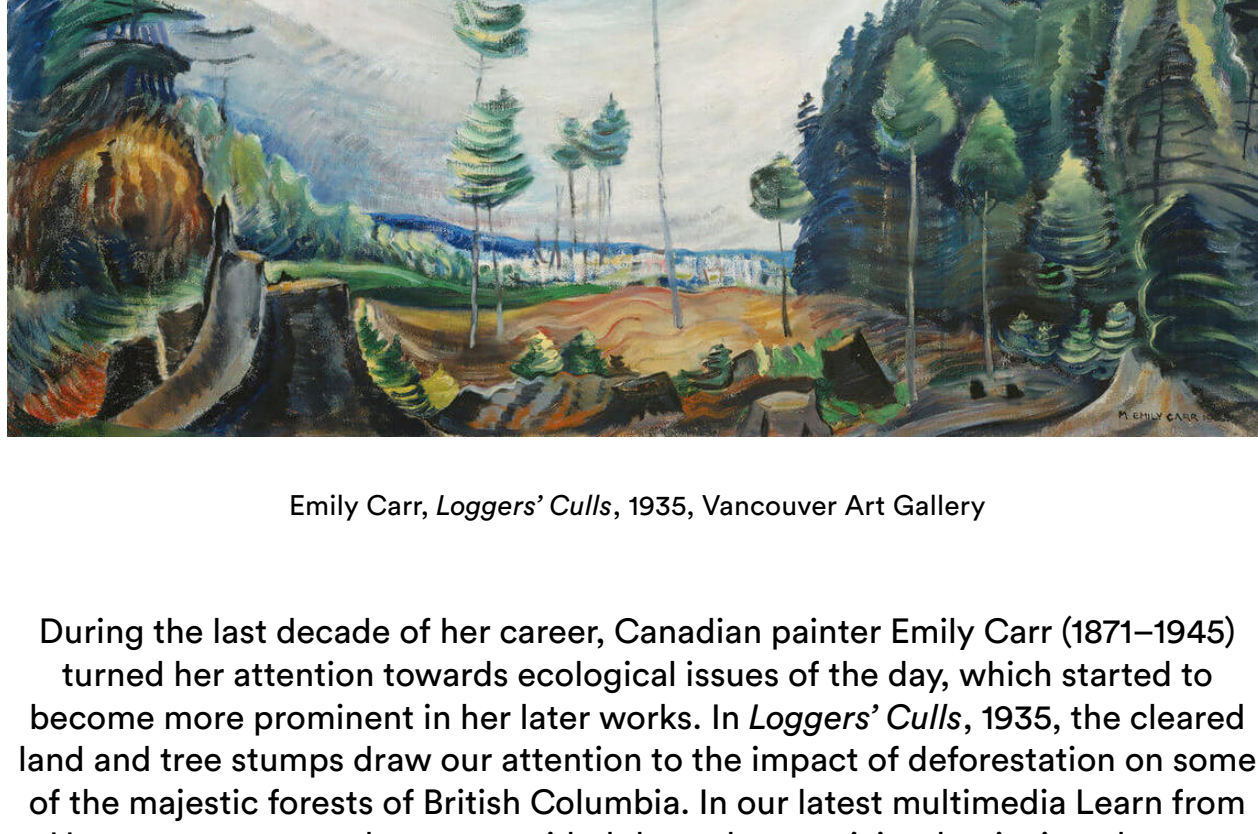
Tom Thomson's
Outdoor OasisTom Thomson, *In the Northland*, 1915–16, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

One of Canada's most widely known artists, Tom Thomson (1877–1917) was passionate about the outdoors, and he was committed to experimenting with new ways to paint the landscape. He sought out numerous opportunities to be close to nature, spending time in Algonquin Park from early spring until late fall in the final years of his life so that he could sketch and paint from the Canadian landscape he knew and loved. If you are interested in leading your students through an outdoor sketching project of their own, have a look at our Teacher Resource Guide "Learn about Modern Canadian Landscapes and the Group of Seven through the art of Tom Thomson."

[Download the Guide Here](#)Elaine Ling's
Tree of GenerationsElaine Ling, *Baobab 29*, Madagascar, 2010

The almost human-like quality of this Baobab tree located in Madagascar is only one of its incredible features: trees like this one are among the largest living things on earth, with lifespans of more than one thousand years, and capacity to store as much as 26,000 gallons of water to stay alive. Canadian photographer Elaine Ling (1946–2016) created a breathtaking photographic series featuring

Baobab trees from South Africa, Madagascar, and Mali, inspired by their evocation of the resilience and transience of life.

[Read More](#)Emily Carr's
Environmental ConscienceEmily Carr, *Loggers' Culls*, 1935, Vancouver Art Gallery

During the last decade of her career, Canadian painter Emily Carr (1871–1945) turned her attention towards ecological issues of the day, which started to become more prominent in her later works. In *Loggers' Culls*, 1935, the cleared land and tree stumps draw our attention to the impact of deforestation on some of the majestic forests of British Columbia. In our latest multimedia Learn from Home resource, students are guided through an activity that invites them to connect with the subject of clearcutting through a written response to this work.

[Access our Emily Carr learning video and independent student learning activity](#)

IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER



We are delighted to be announcing the launch of the Art Canada Institute Program's [Canadian Art Inspiration Contest](#). Open to submissions from K – 12 students across the country, the contest is a way to celebrate the next generation of Canadian artists, and to connect their creations to our country's art 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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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.

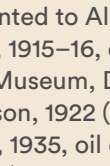
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Image Credits: [1] Meryl McMaster, *On the Edge of This Immensity*, from the series *As Immense as the Sky*, 2019, chromogenic print flush mounted to Aluminum Composite Panel, 101.6 x 152.4 cm. Courtesy of the artist. [2] Tom Thomson, *In the Northland*, 1915–16, oil on canvas, 101.7 x 114.5 cm. Collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, gift of Friends of the Museum, Dr. Francis J. Shepherd, Sir Vincent Meredith, Drs. Lauterman and W. Gardner and Mrs. Hobart Molson, 1922 (1922.179). [3] Elaine Ling, *Baobab 29 Madagascar*, 2010. © Elaine Ling. [4] Emily Carr, *Loggers' Culls*, 1935, oil on canvas, 69 x 112.2 cm. Collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery, gift of Miss I. Parkyn (VAG 39.1). Photo credit: Trevor Mills, Vancouver Art Gallery.