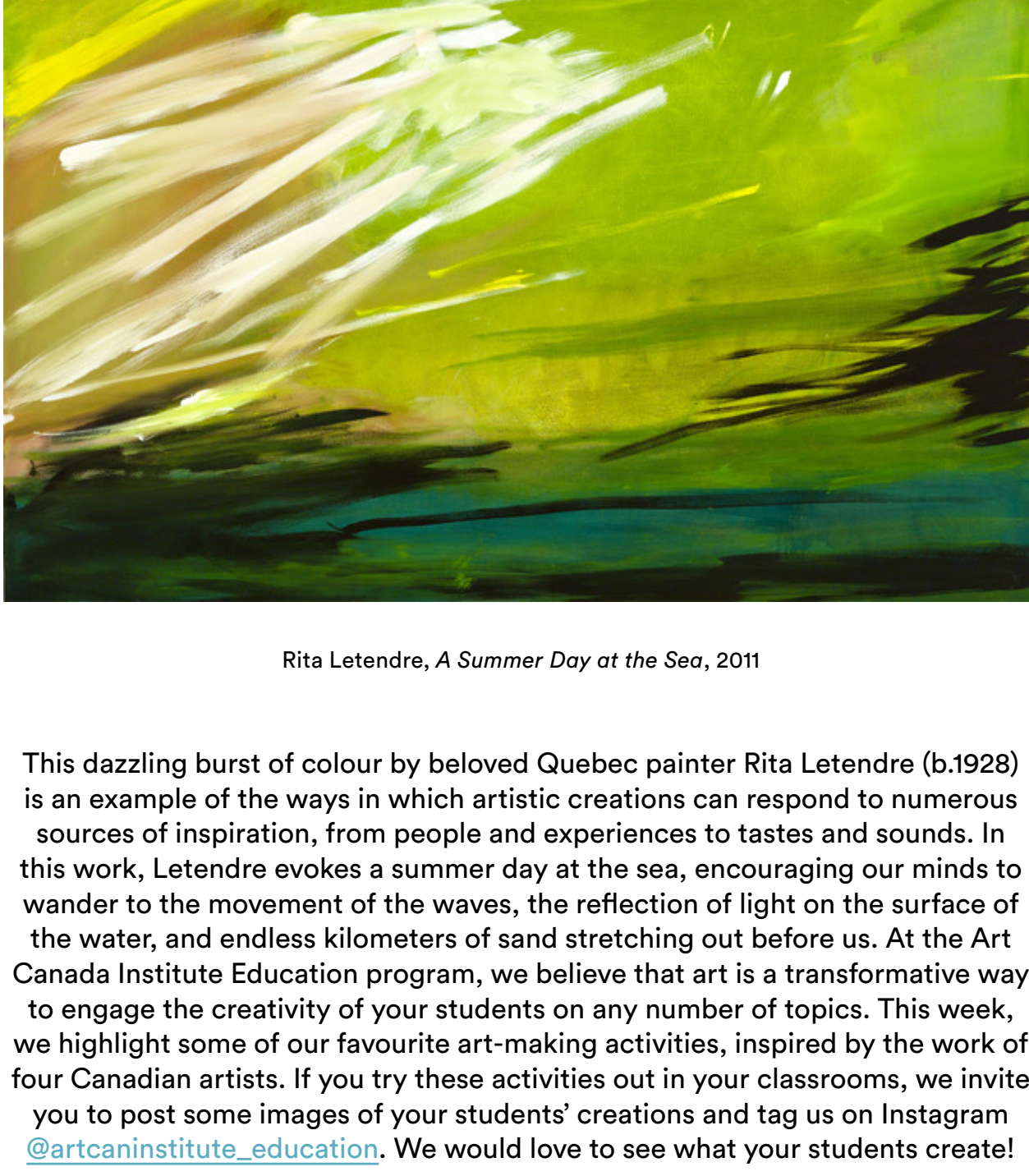


## EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

## CREATING INSPIRING SPACES FOR LEARNING

Transform your classrooms with four art activity ideas from the ACI Education Program



Rita Letendre, *A Summer Day at the Sea*, 2011

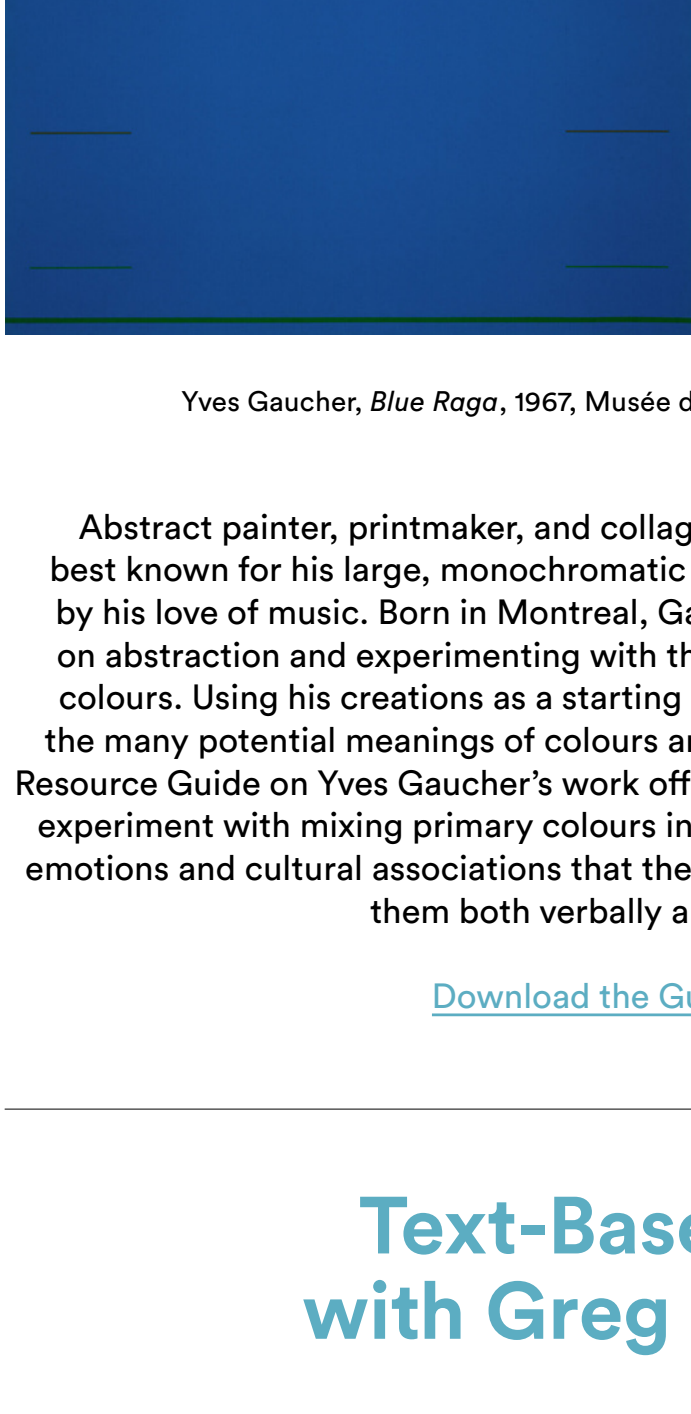
This dazzling burst of colour by beloved Quebec painter Rita Letendre (b.1928) is an example of the ways in which artistic creations can respond to numerous sources of inspiration, from people and experiences to tastes and sounds. In this work, Letendre evokes a summer day at the sea, encouraging our minds to wander to the movement of the waves, the reflection of light on the surface of the water, and endless kilometers of sand stretching out before us. At the Art Canada Institute Education program, we believe that art is a transformative way to engage the creativity of your students on any number of topics. This week, we highlight some of our favourite art-making activities, inspired by the work of four Canadian artists. If you try these activities out in your classrooms, we invite you to post some images of your students' creations and tag us on Instagram [@artcaninstitute\\_education](https://www.instagram.com/artcaninstitute_education). We would love to see what your students create!

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

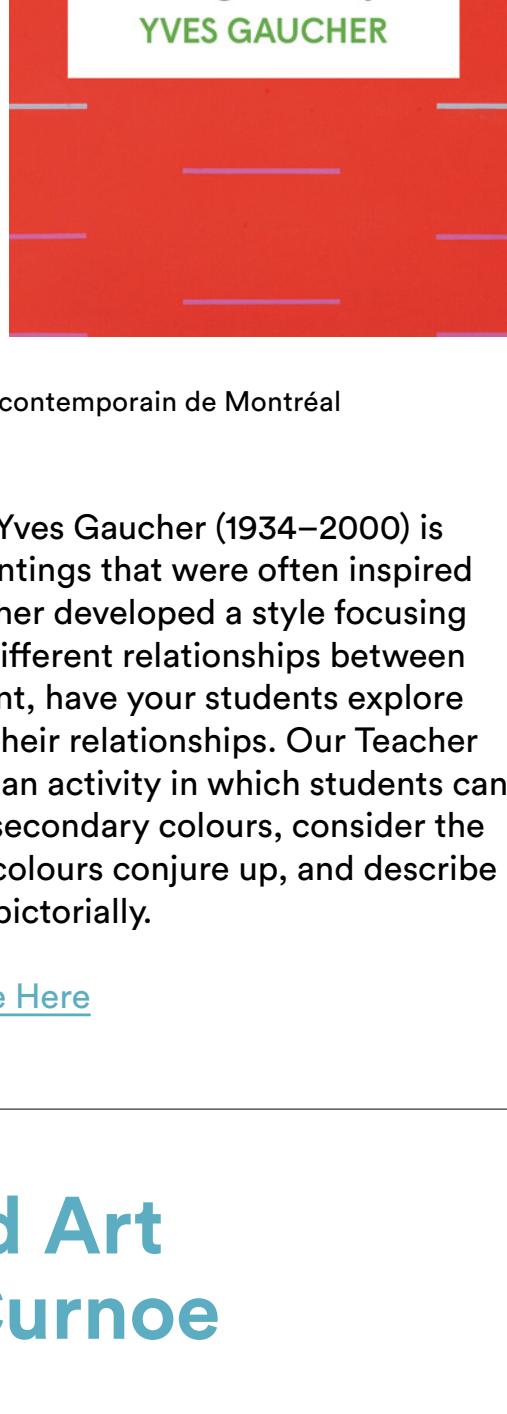
Looking for more ways to get your students involved with art making? In our next newsletter we will be sharing the details of our upcoming Art Contest – stay tuned for more information!

## AVENUES TO EXPLORE

## Chromatic Adventures with Yves Gaucher



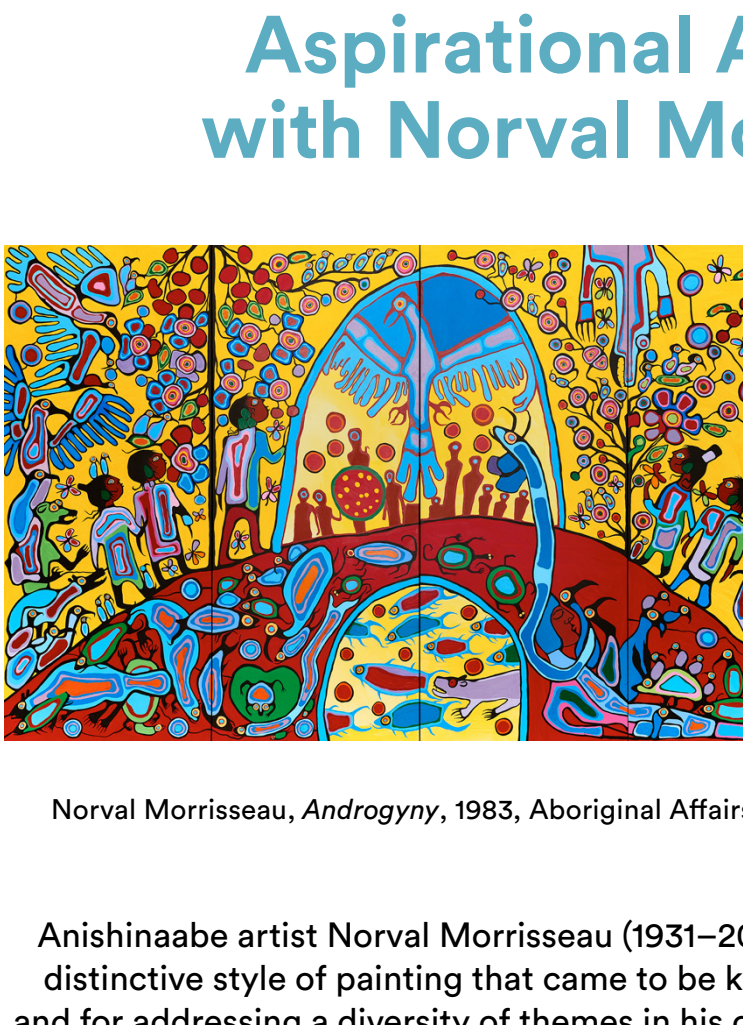
Yves Gaucher, *Blue Raga*, 1967, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal



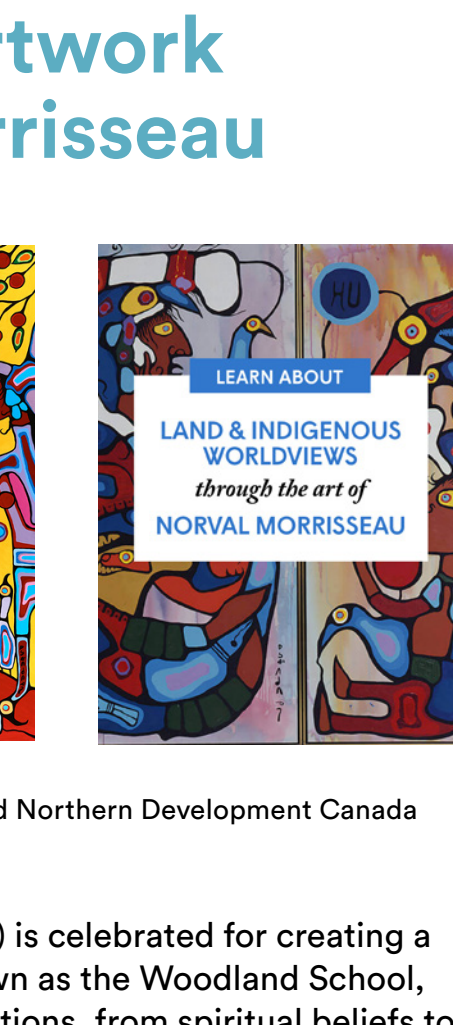
Abstract painter, printmaker, and collagist Yves Gaucher (1934–2000) is best known for his large, monochromatic paintings that were often inspired by his love of music. Born in Montreal, Gaucher developed a style focusing on abstraction and experimenting with the different relationships between colours. Using his creations as a starting point, have your students explore the many potential meanings of colours and their relationships. Our Teacher Resource Guide on Yves Gaucher's work offers an activity in which students can experiment with mixing primary colours into secondary colours, consider the emotions and cultural associations that these colours conjure up, and describe them both verbally and pictorially.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

## Text-Based Art with Greg Curnoe



Greg Curnoe, *I Wai*, November 11–13, 1992



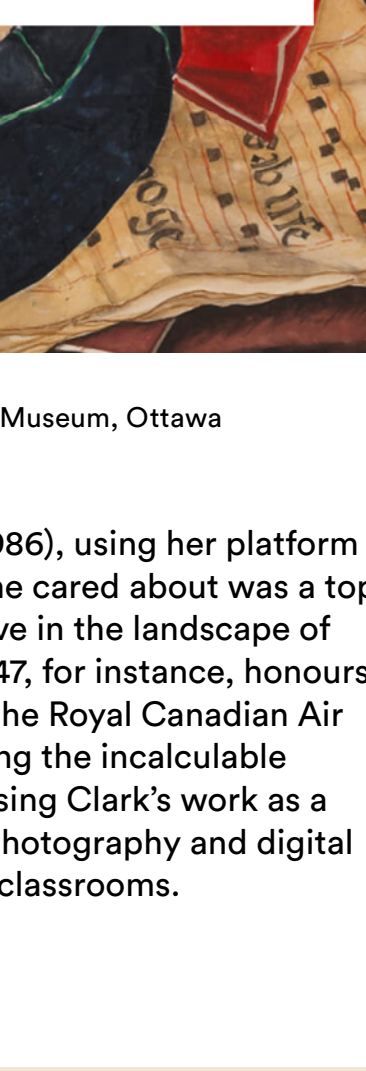
London-born artist Greg Curnoe (1936–1992) loved the visual potential of text-based artwork. Words feature front and center in many of his creations, sometimes articulating aspects of his political viewpoints, and other times simply decorating the background of his works. After receiving a stamp set as a child, he experimented with stamps for the rest of his life, creating the work *I Wai*, November 11–13, 1992, only days before his death. In our Teacher Resource Guide on Curnoe, his exploration of word art is the inspiration for an activity that encourages your students to create a text-based artwork of their own.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

## Aspirational Artwork with Norval Morrisseau



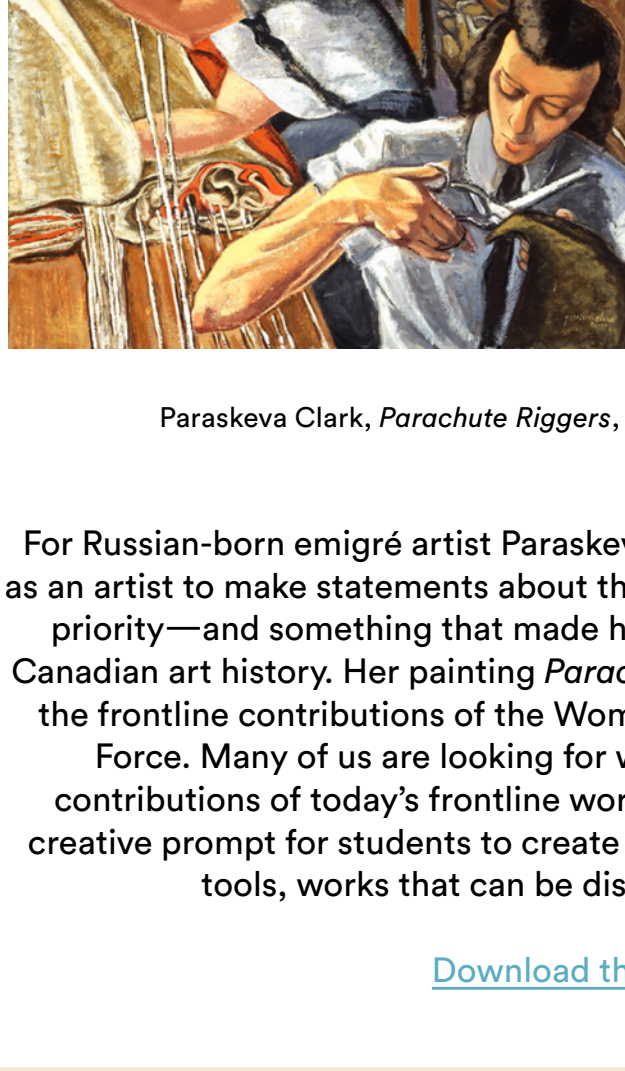
Norval Morrisseau, *Androgyny*, 1983, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada



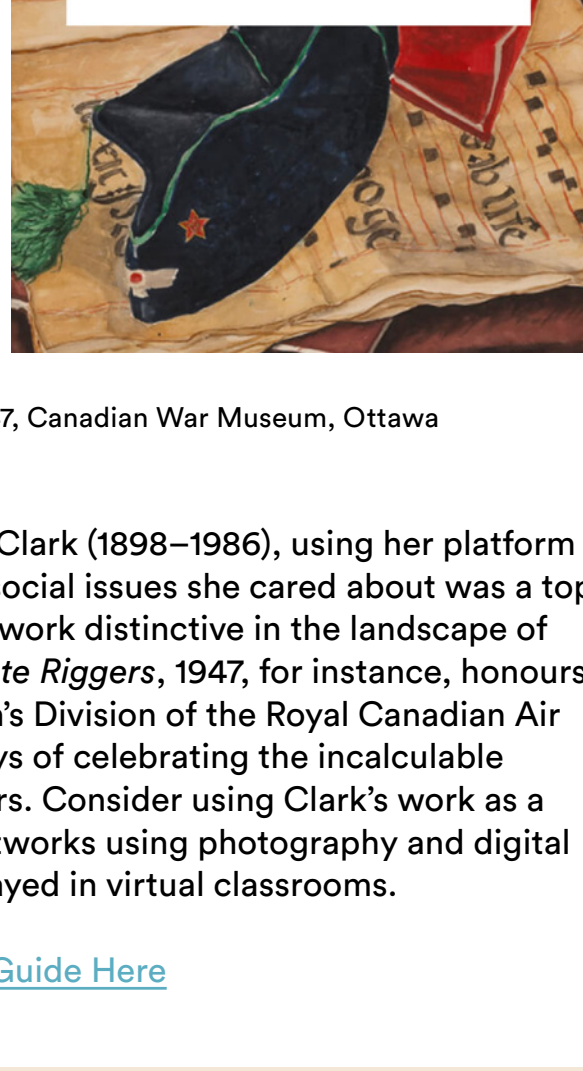
Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau (1931–2007) is celebrated for creating a distinctive style of painting that came to be known as the Woodland School, and for addressing a diversity of themes in his creations, from spiritual beliefs to colonial history. His painting *Androgyny*, 1983, is a breathtaking example of his masterful use of colour and complex imagery. Offered to the people of Canada as a gesture of reconciliation, the painting has been interpreted as representing the artist's vision for our country. It is an inspiring starting point for an activity that invites students to create an artwork in their own style about their aspirations for the lands that they live on, and the communities they live with.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

## Celebrating Frontline Workers with Paraskeva Clark



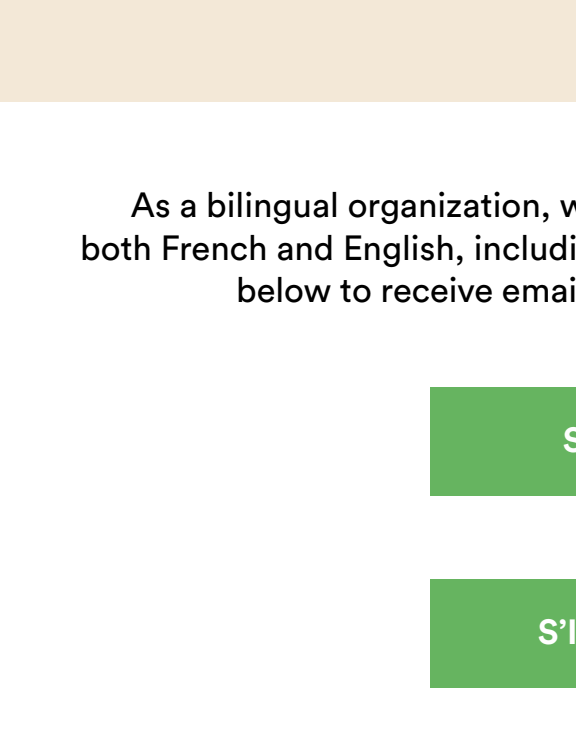
Paraskeva Clark, *Parachute Riggers*, 1947, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa



For Russian-born emigré artist Paraskeva Clark (1898–1986), using her platform as an artist to make statements about the social issues she cared about was a top priority—and something that made her work distinctive in the landscape of Canadian art history. Her painting *Parachute Riggers*, 1947, for instance, honours the frontline contributions of the Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Many of us are looking for ways of celebrating the incalculable contributions of today's frontline workers. Consider using Clark's work as a creative prompt for students to create artworks using photography and digital tools, works that can be displayed in virtual classrooms.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

## IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER



With Earth Day coming up on April 22nd, in our next newsletter we are thrilled to share one of our newest resource publications, a guide exploring the work of inimitable Inuit artist Pitseolak Ashoona (c.1904/8–1983). Stay tuned for resources and inspirational artworks focused on the themes of land stewardship and the environment.

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 locate the world about Canada's most important works of art and where they are told. 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](https://www.aci-iac.ca)

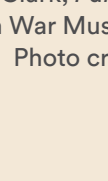
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Image Credits: [1] Rita Letendre, *A Summer Day at the Sea*, 2011, oil on canvas, 140.5 x 165 cm. [2] Yves Gaucher, *Blue Raga*, 1967, acrylic on canvas, 122 x 122 cm. Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. © Estate of Yves Gaucher / SODRAC (2015). [3] Greg Curnoe, *I Wai*, November 11–13, 1992, watercolour, stamp pad ink, pencil on paper, 22.5 x 30.5 cm. Private collection. © Estate of Greg Curnoe/SODRAC (2016). Photograph by Mark Kasumovic. [4] Norval Morrisseau, *Androgyny*, 1983, acrylic on canvas, 366 x 610 cm. Collection of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Gatineau (306400 A-D). Photograph by Lawrence Cook. [5] Paraskeva Clark, *Parachute Riggers*, 1947, oil on canvas, 101.7 x 81.4 cm. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa (AN19710261-5679). © Estate of Paraskeva Clark. Photo credit: Canadian War Museum.