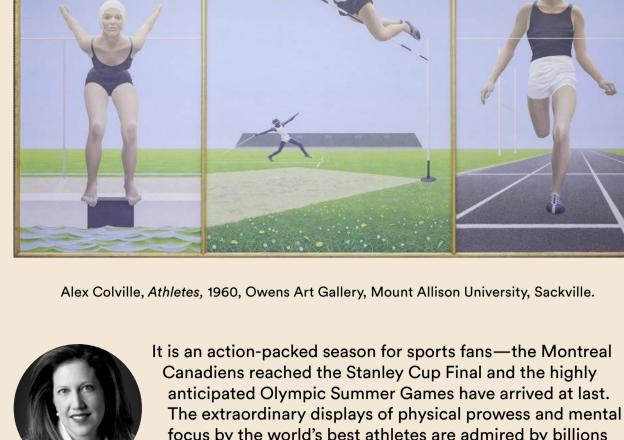
JULY 23, 2021

TEN CANADIAN WORKS Sports have long served as a rich source of creative inspiration.

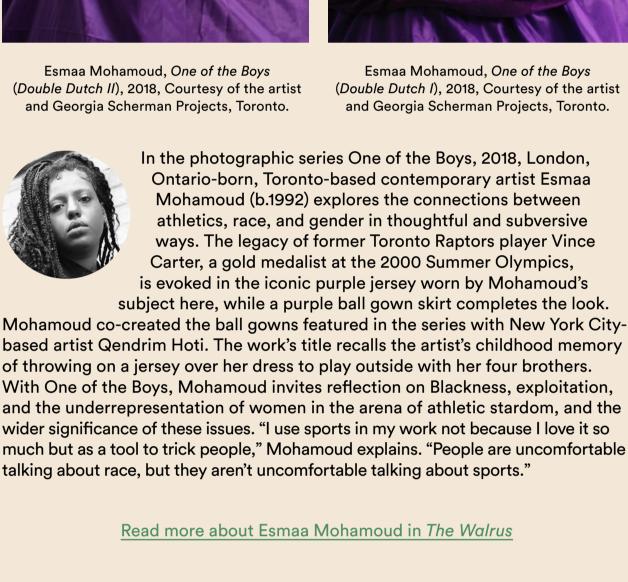
we're highlighting art that explores the world of athletics.

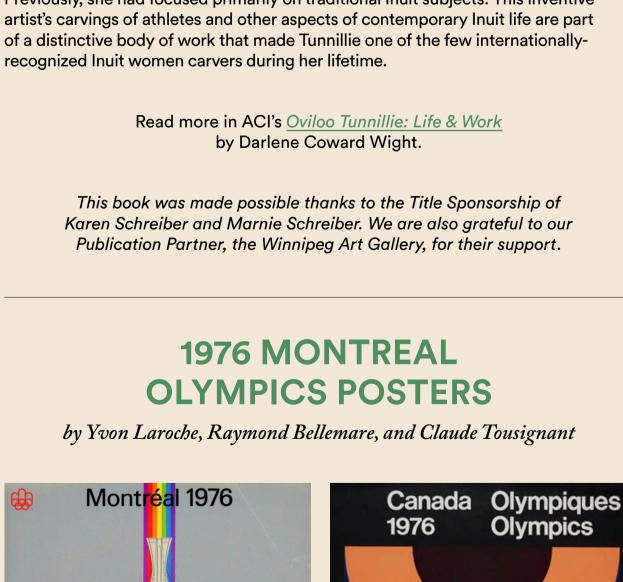


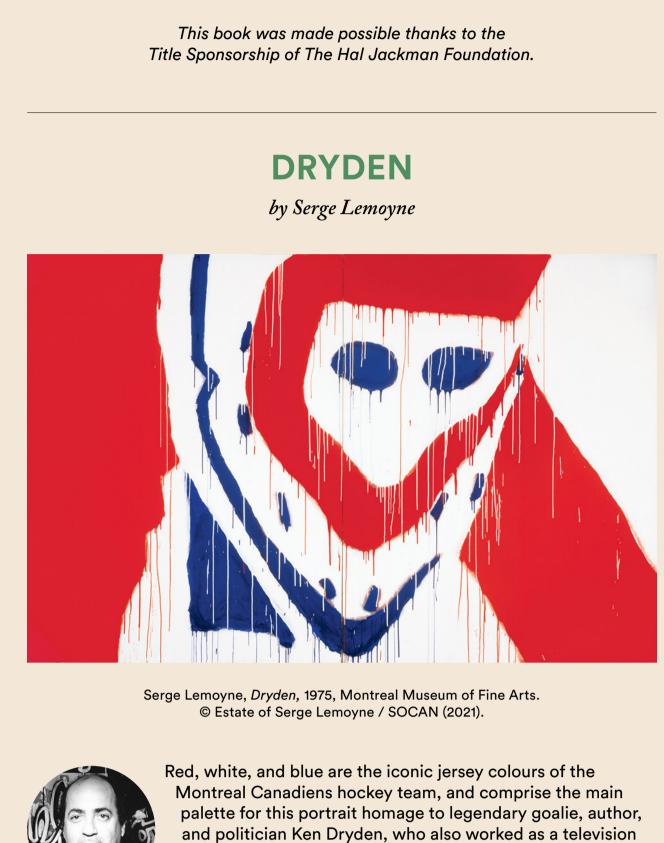


Ontario-born sculptor Robert Tait McKenzie that was submitted to the inaugural art competition in 1912. Alongside these significant pieces, we're showcasing works that explore a wide range of themes related to athleticism and the Olympics, including the body, gender, and the sports industry. Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute ONE OF THE BOYS by Esmaa Mohamoud

Esmaa Mohamoud, One of the Boys (Double Dutch II), 2018, Courtesy of the artist and Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto.







THE JOY OF EFFORT by Robert Tait McKenzie

THE BANANA OLYMPICS by Anna Banana Sunday, March 30, 1~4pm, Embarcadero Plaza **Program of Events** 1 pm: OPENING CEREMONIES/BANANA
OLYMPIC GAMES—Introduction of contestants to accompaniment of bassna music.
Drum roll as group of 21 go to fore, form a
line, then perform the BANANA SALUTE,
first to audience, then to contestants.

1:10—THE RACES—26 ridiculous treck and field
events, details in fize below. BANANA MUSIC
INTERMISSION—winning entries in the Fabulous Banana Music Contest. 3:30— FOURTH ANNUAL BAY AREA DADAIST GROUP PORTRAIT—audience and contes-tants (bannass for all if available). 3:45— OPPICIAL BANANA ATEMPT to break the World Record for the Lap Game, set by 309 people in Davis, California, Nov. 9, 1974. Challenge issued by the NEW GAMES FOUN-DATION. Yall come and we'll do it! IF YOU CAN'P ATIEND, tune in for KPFA's live broadcast of the event, 1 · 4 pm, Sun, Mar. 30. 3:00- UNIQUE BANANA EATING CONTEST-one banana, laughs win. (Entry No. 26) 3:10- RECORD DRAW AND PRESENTATION-12 copies of "MONKEY GRIP", Rolling Stones label, donated by Banana Records. 3:15- AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY-General Rules The Races ted for WINNING ENTRIES Anna Banana, The Banana Olympics, 1975.

> The Banana Olympics were not your typical Olympic games. Devised by contemporary conceptual artist Anna Banana (b.1940 as Anne Lee Long in Victoria, British Columbia) the Banana Olympics—where the overhand banana throw was a main event, and winners were selected based on their

costumes—were first held in the vibrant artistic counterculture

epicentre of San Francisco in 1975, followed by performances in Surrey, British Columbia, in 1980 and tours in Europe. Banana's

participatory art is steeped in the tradition of such movements as Fluxus, Dada, and Theatre of the Absurd. As she explains, "The bottom line in my work is interaction"—

Read more about Anna Banana

BEISBOL SERIES

by Simon Willms

something present in spades in this whimsical "Olympic" affair.

WARRIOR 4 by Brian Jungen

> Brian Jungen, Warrior 4, 2018, Courtesy of the artist and Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver.

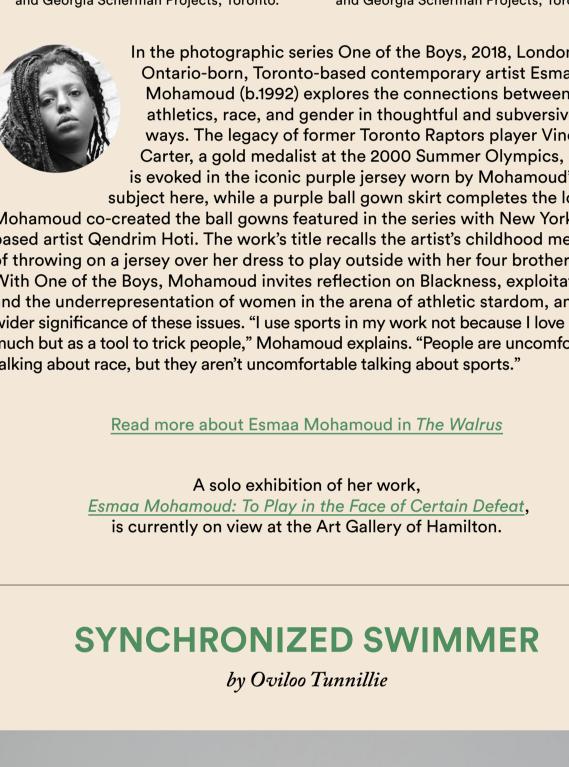
Composed of deconstructed Nike Air Jordan sneakers, this sculpture from Okanagan-based contemporary artist Brian Jungen's (b.1970) Warrior series calls to mind the movement, colour, and intricate design of First Nations regalia. Jungen,

widespread acclaim for his creative re-purposing of athletic

who is of Dane-Zaa and Swiss ancestry, has gained

Facebook artcaninstitute/ Instagram

Visit us at aci-iac.ca for more content on Canadian art and artists Canadian Online Art Book Project Purchase Available Print Books Canadian Schools Art Education Program Art Lecture Videos



Yvon Laroche and Raymond Bellemare, Claude Tousignant, Montreal 1976 Olympic Montreal Olympic Stadium Poster, 1976. Poster, 1976.

As host to the 1976 Summer Olympics, the city of Montreal commissioned these posters highlighting its new stadium, "The Big O"—the largest (by seating capacity) in the country. In the work by designers Yvon Laroche (b.1942) and Raymond Bellemare (b.1942), a multi-perspectival view of the striking building appears (poster on the left), while renowned painter Claude Tousignant's (b. 1932) abstract design hints at the circular playing fields where the games took place (poster on the right). The big stadium's dramatic architectural incline is unique on the world stage, and memorabilia from postcards to photographs to the poster campaigns that adorned the city that year centralize its features.

Read more about Montreal Olympic posters

FIVE MEN CURLING

by William Notman

William Notman, Five Men Curling, n.d., National Galleries Scotland. The enterprising Scottish-born, Montreal-based photographer William Notman (1826–1891) was renowned for his photographs of snowshoe and curling clubs. In this image, he captures a suspenseful moment as members of a curling team watch the central player sweep the ice to direct the movement of a sliding stone. The work effectively portrays the athletes in action, but in reality it was the result of careful staging undertaken in Notman's studio, where diverse props and painted backdrops were frequently employed to create realistic scenes of everyday life in the nineteenth century. A popular sport during this period, curling was brought to Canada by immigrants from Scotland, where it was invented in the early sixteenth century. Read more in ACI's

William Notman: Life & Work by Sarah Parsons

works dedicated to hockey. With nods to both Pop Art and the expressive drip techniques of abstract expressionism, Lemoyne's visually arresting tribute to the team he loved has particular resonance this Stanley Cup season. Read more about Serge Lemoyne

Share this newsletter with friends who love Canada's art, or invite them to sign up here for our weekly dispatch.

he devoted ten years of his artistic career—sometimes referred to as his "red, white, and blue" period—to creating paintings and participatory performance

hockey commentator at the 1980, 1984, and 1988 Winter Olympics. A monumental diptych made up of two large-scale panels, Dryden was painted by Quebec artist Serge Lemoyne (1941–1998) in 1975. Lemoyne's love of the Canadiens ran deep;

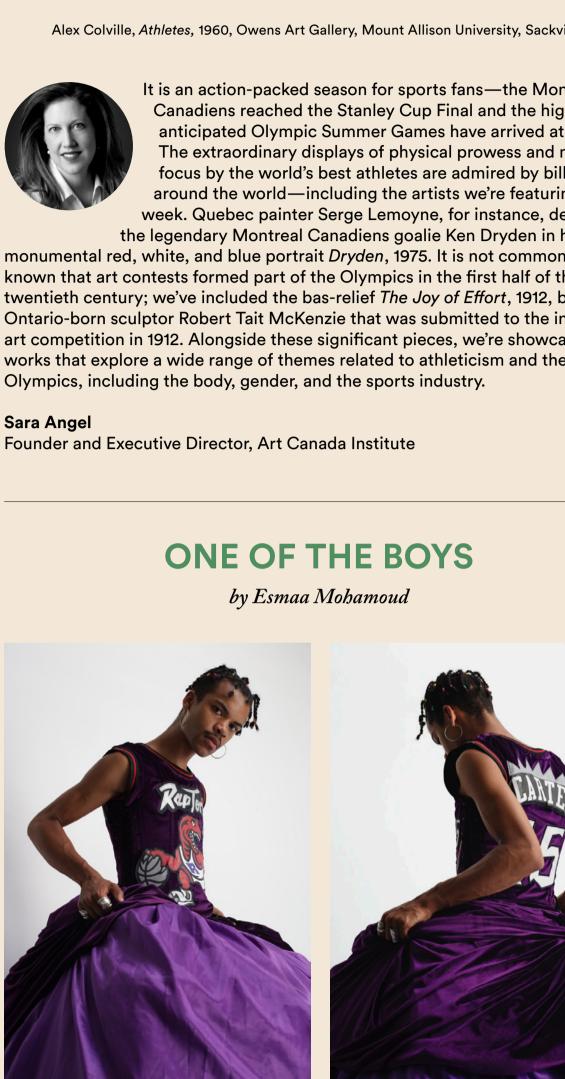
Robert Tait McKenzie, The Joy of Effort, 1912–14, Springfield College, Massachusetts. This bas-relief is by the Lanark County, Ontario-born sculptor, physician, and athlete Robert Tait McKenzie (1867–1938), who took a position at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he became a physical fitness pioneer while pursuing art. A little-known fact of Olympics past is that art competitions were held alongside the athletic events. Artists submitted sports-inspired works for consideration and medals were awarded in different categories. For this reason, the United States Olympic Committee commissioned Tait to create *The Joy* of Effort, 1912–14, a work that masterfully captures the strength, strain, and incredible concentration of three Olympian sprinters leaping towards victory. Their carefully rendered bodies in motion demonstrate McKenzie's profound anatomical and medical knowledge. Read more about Robert Tait McKenzie

Simon Willms, Peres, n.d., from the Beisbol series, Courtesy of the artist. This image of a pitcher winding up his shot is part of a series of works by Toronto-based photographer Simon Willms. The bold conviction of this young

baseball player is palpable in the image—a central quality that shines through in each of Willms's portraits. In the Beisbol series, he captures the hopes, dreams, and determination of young and aspiring amateur baseball players in Santo Domingo and San Pedro, hot spots for the development of new athletic talent for those focused on getting to the major leagues. As Willms states, "My images were taken at a vulnerable point in many of these young peoples' lives, between childhood and adulthood, their future uncertain. Whether or not they are destined to play professional baseball is yet to be decided."

Read more about Simon Willms

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS The ACI is a not-for-profit educational charity that receives no government financing or public support. Our work is made possible by an important circle of <u>friends, patrons, and benefactors</u>. If you would like to support our important work, please see this page.



On the opening day of the Olympic Summer Games in Tokyo,

THE ART OF ATHLETICS

Oviloo Tunnillie, Synchronized Swimmer, 1999, Collection of Barry Appleton. In this elegant sculpture of a synchronized swimmer, Kangia-born artist Oviloo Tunnillie (1949-2014) brilliantly depicts only the parts of the athlete's body that are above the water's surface. We see only a portion of the routine, leaving the rest of the scene to our imagination. Tunnillie created many carvings such as this one inspired by the Olympic Games, which she watched fervently on television. Her artistic foray into the theme of sports began in 1981, when she carved two helmeted football players. Previously, she had focused primarily on traditional Inuit subjects. This inventive

shoes and other sports paraphernalia into elaborate sculptures that resemble Indigenous masks, headdresses, and totem poles. His work problematizes the cultures of display that elevate sneakers to the status of art objects while defining Indigenous art objects as "specimens" of natural history rather than works of art. Jungen's playful reversal addresses this incongruity in powerful and unexpected ways. Read more about Brian Jungen Read ACI's Spotlight article on Brian Jungen **ATHLETES** by Alex Colville Alex Colville, Athletes, 1960, Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, Sackville. This mural by Maritime-based realist painter Alex Colville was commissioned by Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, where the artist was both a student and professor. The three-part work was created for the university's athletics building. From left to right, we see a swimmer preparing to dive, a figure hurling his body over a horizontal bar during a high jump, and a runner crossing the finish line. Geometry is a key feature of this meticulously rendered composition, in which we see the linear elements of the environs, such as the tape at the finish line, the high jump bar, and the fence behind the diver. "Athletes reflects the relationship between the figure and space, both physical and psychological," explains Gemey Kelly, Director/Curator of the Owens Art Gallery in Sackville. Read more in ACI's Alex Colville: Life & Work by Ray Cronin This book was made possible thanks to the Title Sponsorship of Kiki & Ian Delaney. Our entire collection of newsletters can be found on the ACI website, for you to read, share, and enjoy. **PAST NEWSLETTERS**

> @artcaninstitute **Twitter** @artcaninstitute

Follow us on social media

Image Credits: [1, 13] Alex Colville, Athletes, 1960, oil and synthetic resin on board, 1.52 x 2.42 m. Collection of the Owens Art Gallery, Mount Allison University, Sackville. [2] Esmaa Mohamoud, One of the Boys (Double Dutch II), 2018, inkjet photo. Courtesy of the artist and Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto. [3] Esmaa Mohamoud, One of the Boys (Double Dutch I), 2018, inkjet photo. Courtesy of the artist and Georgia Scherman Projects, Toronto. [4] Oviloo Tunnillie, Synchronized Swimmer, 1999, serpentinite, 17.7 x 33.6 x 12.1 cm. Collection of Barry Appleton. Courtesy of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Photo credit: Ernest Mayer. © Dorset Fine Arts. [5] Yvon Laroche and Raymond Bellemare, Montreal Olympic Stadium Poster, 1976. Collection of the Canada Modern Archive. Courtesy of Canada Modern. [6] Claude Tousignant, Montréal 1976 Olympic Poster, 1976, lithograph print poster. Courtesy of Caviar20, Toronto. [7] William Notman, Five Men Curling, n.d., albumen print, 10.2 x 14.2 cm. Collection of the National Galleries Scotland, Gift of Mrs. Riddell in memory of Peter Fletcher Riddell, 1985 (PGP R 210). [8] Serge Lemoyne, Dryden, 1975, acrylic on canvas, 224 x 346 cm. Collection of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 2000.8.1-2 © Estate of Serge Lemoyne / SOCAN (2021). Photo: MMFA, Christine Guest. [9] Robert Tait McKenzie, The Joy of Effort, 1912–14, bas-relief. Collection of Springfield College, Massachusetts. [10] Anna Banana, The Banana Olympics, 1975, poster print. Courtesy of Penticton Art Gallery. [11] Simon Willms, Peres, n.d., from Beisbol Series, chromogenic print. Courtesy of the artist.

[12] Brian Jungen, Warrior 4, 2018, Nike air jordans, leather, copper, 86.4 x 76.2 x 66 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver.