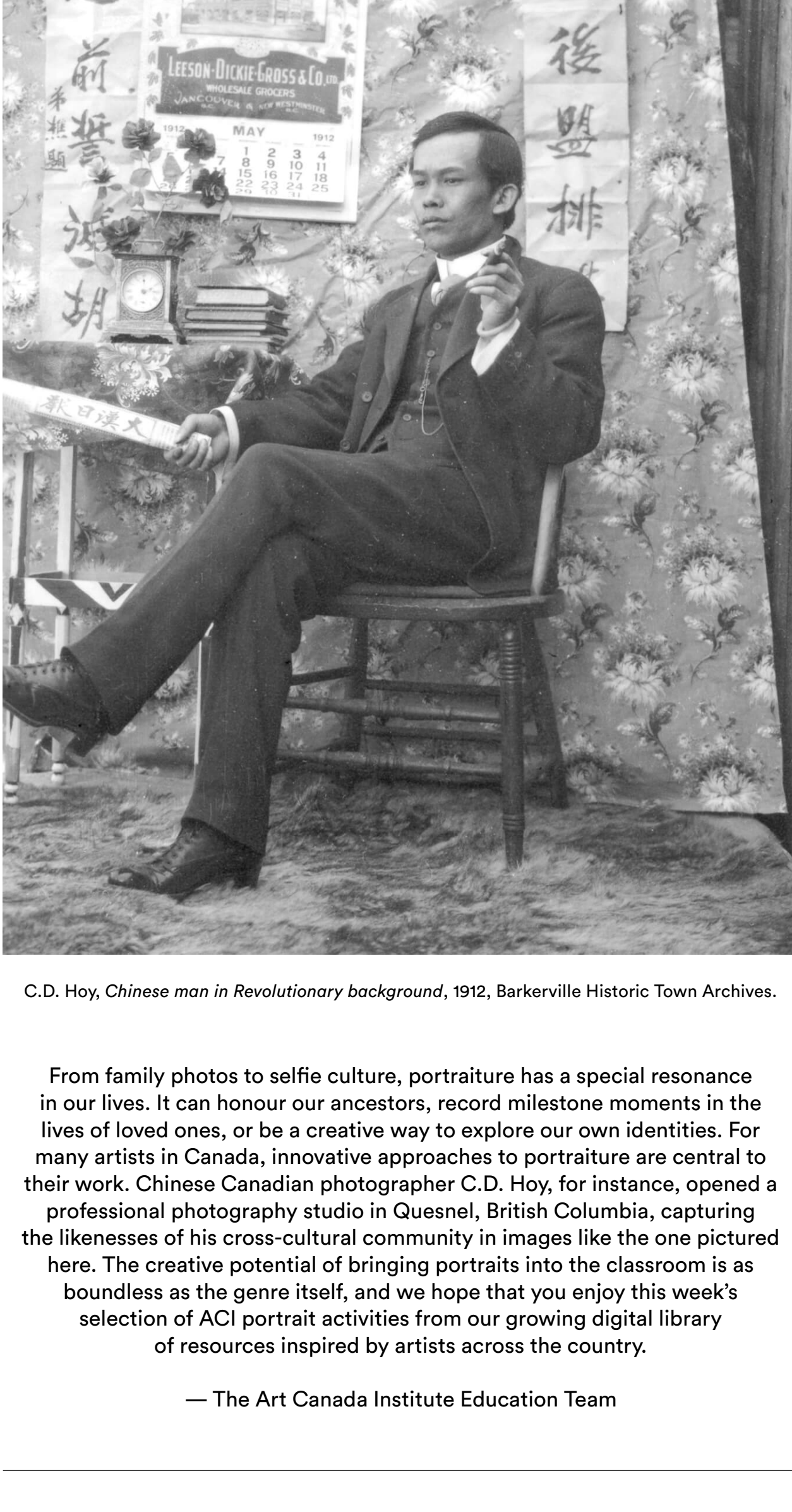


THE POWER OF PORTRAITS LEARN, OBSERVE, CREATE

Inspired by the work of Canadian artists from the 1800s to the present day, four activities bring portraiture into the classroom

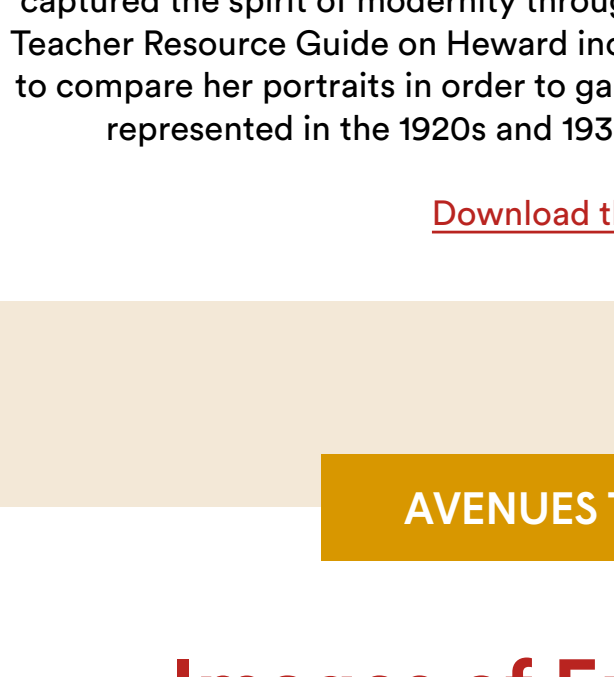


C.D. Hoy, *Chinese man in Revolutionary background*, 1912, Barkerville Historic Town Archives.

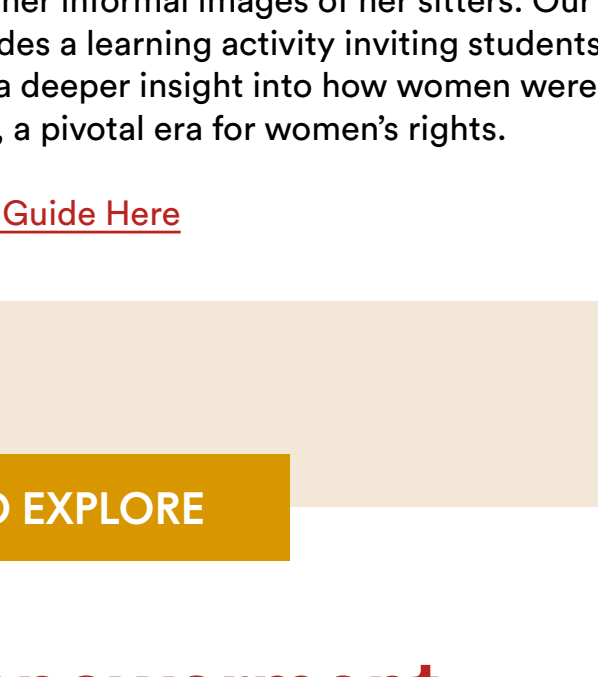
From family photos to selfie culture, portraiture has a special resonance in our lives. It can honour our ancestors, record milestone moments in the lives of loved ones, or be a creative way to explore our own identities. For many artists in Canada, innovative approaches to portraiture are central to their work. Chinese Canadian photographer C.D. Hoy, for instance, opened a professional photography studio in Quesnel, British Columbia, capturing the likenesses of his cross-cultural community in images like the one pictured here. The creative potential of bringing portraits into the classroom is as boundless as the genre itself, and we hope that you enjoy this week's selection of ACI portrait activities from our growing digital library of resources inspired by artists across the country.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

Portrait Pairings with Prudence Heward



Prudence Heward, *At the Café (Miss Mabel Lockerby)*, c.1929, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.



Prudence Heward, *Autumn (Girl with an Apple)*, 1942, Collection of Elizabeth and Tony Comper.

Grades 6 to 12

English, Media Studies, Health and Physical Education, Social Studies, Visual Arts, the Writer's Craft, and more

In Canadian art history, there are few artists who contributed more to portraiture at the turn of the twentieth century than Montreal-born Prudence Heward (1896–1947). Best known for her bold and striking portraits of women, Heward captured the spirit of modernity through her informal images of her sitters. Our Teacher Resource Guide on Heward includes a learning activity inviting students to compare her portraits in order to gain a deeper insight into how women were represented in the 1920s and 1930s, a pivotal era for women's rights.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Images of Empowerment by Zacharie Vincent

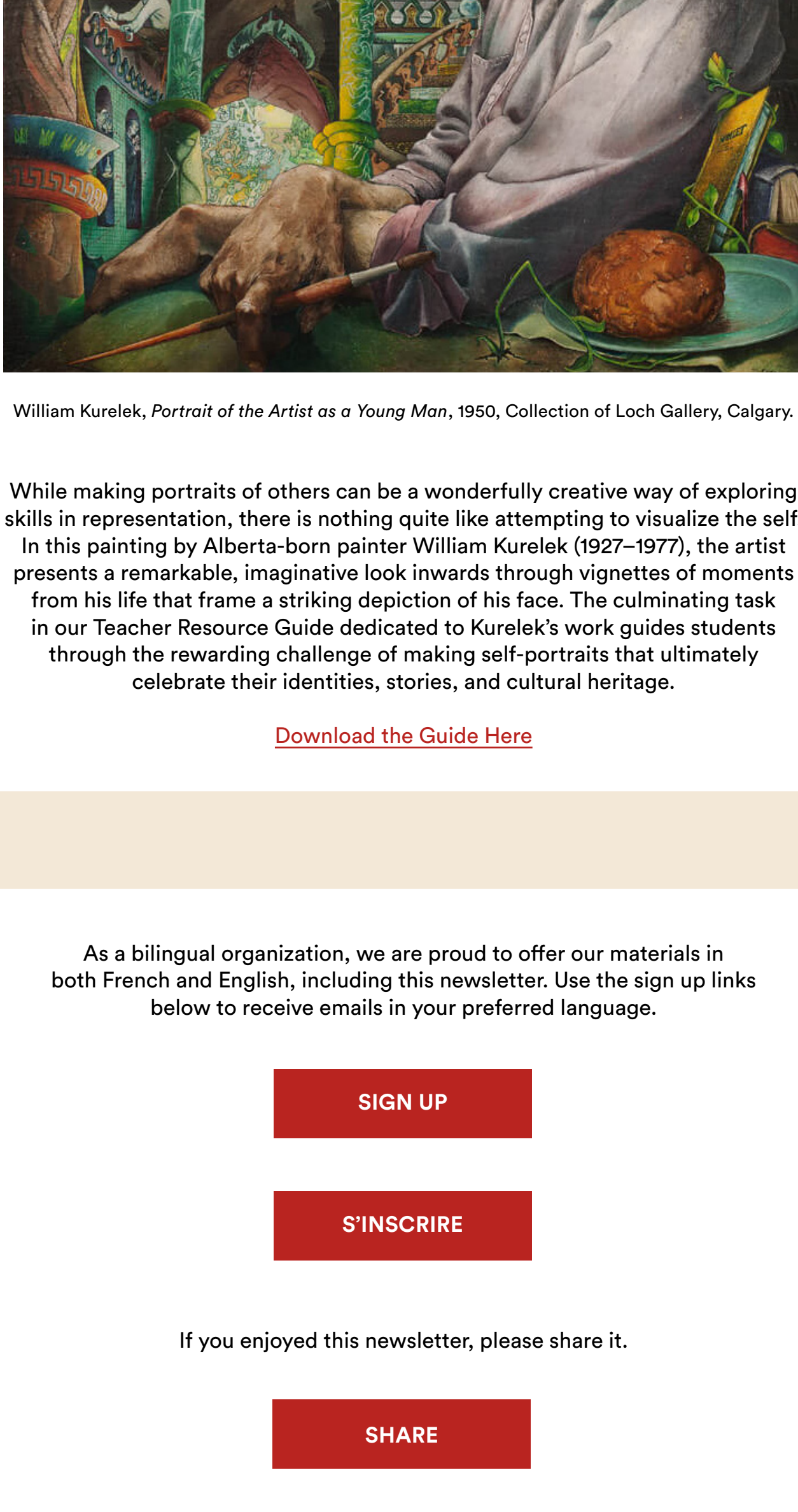


Zacharie Vincent, *Self-Portrait*, n.d., Musée de la civilisation, Quebec City.

A member of the Huron-Wendat community, Zacharie Vincent (1815–1886) created a small number of self-portraits that constituted a celebration of autonomy, cultural strength, and personal identity amidst often damaging and inaccurate representations of Indigenous people by European settler artists. Using his work as inspiration, our Teacher Resource Guide on systemic racism and resistance invites students to learn about ethical representation by having them research and create portraits of contemporary figures working in anti-racism and advocacy in Canada.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

Molly Lamb Bobak's Women War Heroes

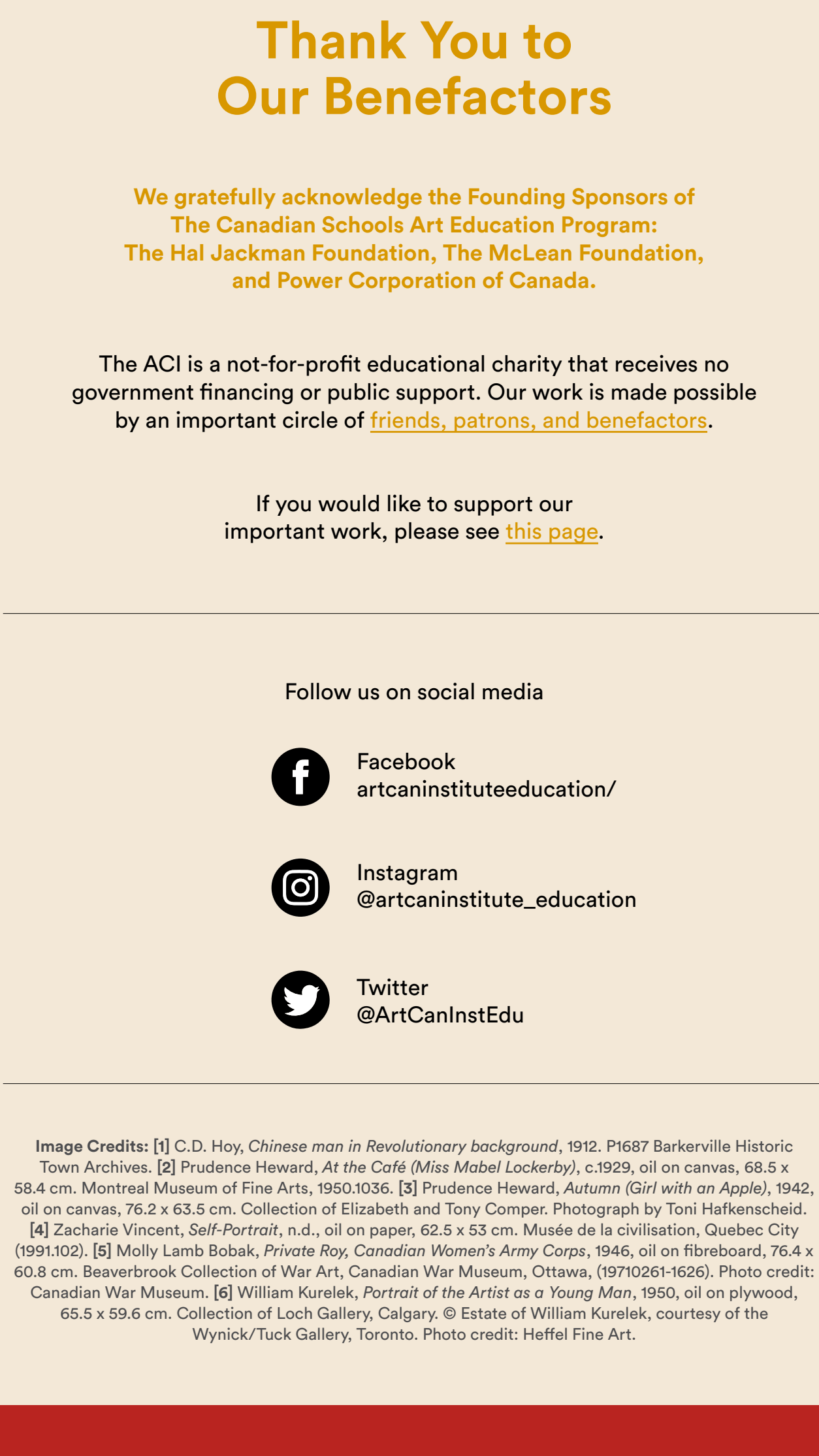


Molly Lamb Bobak, *Private Roy, Canadian Women's Army Corps*, 1946, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa.

Portraiture makes a vital contribution to our nation's collective memory in its commemoration of significant historical figures, like Private Eva May Roy, pictured here. This work is the only formal oil painting produced by Canada's first official woman war artist, Molly Lamb Bobak (1920–2014), and honours the contributions of Private Roy to the Canadian Women's Army Corps. To guide students through a deeper look at this portrait, with a focus on the contributions of Black Canadian women to the war effort in Canada, consult our Teacher Resource Guide on women in the Second World War.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

Create a Self Portrait Inspired by William Kurelek



William Kurelek, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, 1950, Collection of Loch Gallery, Calgary.

While making portraits of others can be a wonderfully creative way of exploring skills in representation, there is nothing quite like attempting to visualize the self. In this painting by Alberta-born painter William Kurelek (1927–1977), the artist presents a remarkable, imaginative look inwards through vignettes of moments from his life that frame a striking depiction of his face. The culminating task in our Teacher Resource Guide dedicated to Kurelek's work guides students through the rewarding challenge of making self-portraits that ultimately celebrate their identities, stories, and cultural heritage.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

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.

SIGN UP

S'INSCRIRE

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please share it.

SHARE

READ PAST NEWSLETTERS

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

Thank You to Our Benefactors

We gratefully acknowledge the Founding Sponsors of The Canadian Schools Art Education Program: The Hal Jackman Foundation, The McLean Foundation, and Power Corporation of Canada.

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 [friends, patrons, and benefactors](#).

If you would like to support our important work, please see [this page](#).

Follow us on social media



Facebook
[artcaninstituteeducation/](https://www.facebook.com/artcaninstituteeducation/)



Instagram
[@artcaninstitute_education](https://www.instagram.com/artcaninstitute_education)



Twitter
[@ArtCanInstEdu](https://twitter.com/ArtCanInstEdu)

Image Credits: [1] C.D. Hoy, *Chinese man in Revolutionary background*, 1912, P1687 Barkerville Historic Town Archives. [2] Prudence Heward, *At the Café (Miss Mabel Lockerby)*, c.1929, oil on canvas, 68.5 x 58.4 cm. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1950.1036. [3] Prudence Heward, *Autumn (Girl with an Apple)*, 1942, oil on canvas, 76.2 x 63.5 cm. Collection of Elizabeth and Tony Comper. Photograph by Toni Hafkenscheid. [4] Zacharie Vincent, *Self-Portrait*, n.d., oil on paper, 62.5 x 53 cm. Musée de la civilisation, Quebec City (1991.102). [5] Molly Lamb Bobak, *Private Roy, Canadian Women's Army Corps*, 1946, oil on fibreboard, 76.4 x 60.8 cm. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, (1970.0261-1626). Photo credit: Canadian War Museum. [6] William Kurelek, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, 1950, oil on plywood, 65.5 x 59.6 cm. Collection of Loch Gallery, Calgary. © Estate of William Kurelek, courtesy of the Wynick/Tuck Gallery, Toronto. Photo credit: Heffel Fine Art.