

CELEBRATING WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

ACI RESOURCES FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

In honour of World Children's Day, we are shining a spotlight on elementary teaching resources from the Art Canada Institute Education Program.



Prudence Heward, *Clytie*, 1938, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa.

Curiosity, wonderment, and an eagerness to learn more: These are values that every teacher strives to instill in their pupils—and that we at the ACI Education Program want to support. Children are ever-present in the history of Canadian art, as in this portrait of a young girl, whose striking composure and gaze were immortalized by Montreal-born painter Prudence Heward (1896–1947).

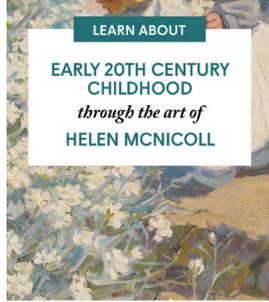
World Children's Day is marked on November 20th, an important date that commemorates the historic 1959 adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the UN General Assembly. It is an opportunity to reflect on the sacred importance of childhood and the role of education in shaping it. In honour of this day, we are sharing some of our favourite art-infused resources for elementary school learners.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

Helen McNicoll's Exploration of Childhood Activities



Helen McNicoll, *Cherry Time*, c.1912, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg.



Have your students ever wondered how children of other eras used to pass the time? In this radiant painting by Impressionist artist Helen McNicoll (1879–1915), two young girls are shown removing the stems from a bowl of picked cherries—an image that helped to shape public understanding about childhood as a distinct and special phase of life. Designed with young learners in mind, our Teacher Resource Guide on McNicoll explores childhood across Canada during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Paterson Ewen and the Wonders of Astronomy



Paterson Ewen, *Moon*, 1975, acrylic on homemade blue paper, 48.8 x 49.9 cm, McIntosh Gallery.



The wonders of the world beyond have been getting closer and closer as science, technology, and the engines of innovation continue to expand. For Paterson Ewen (1925–2002), the cosmos beyond the telescope was an endless source of amazement, and he represented everything from celestial bodies to galaxies and lunar phenomena in his vibrant and exploratory paintings. In our Teacher Resource Guide on astronomy, Ewen's creations connect young students with the night sky through science and art.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

Emily Carr's Love of Trees



Emily Carr, *Trees in France*, c.1911, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario.



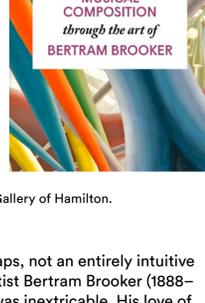
It is no secret that Canadian painter Emily Carr (1871–1945) had a deep love and respect for the natural world. Trees are a recurring motif in many of her paintings, as can be seen in the work illustrated above. Carr used art to make a case for the importance of forests and trees in her home of British Columbia, and her ecological conscience is a continued inspiration for budding environmentalists. Invite students to connect with the significance of trees through three inspiring learning activities centered on Carr's works.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

Bertram Brooker and the Joy of Music



Bertram Brooker, *Symphonic Forms*, 1947, Art Gallery of Hamilton.



What might this painting sound like? This is, perhaps, not an entirely intuitive question to ask—but for British-born Canadian artist Bertram Brooker (1888–1955), the relationship between sound and sight was inextricable. His love of music is made tangible in paintings like *Symphonic Forms*, 1947, which are the foundation of our teaching resources on the theme of musical composition. Find connections between art and music and inspire young learners to appreciate the wonders of both through the work of this iconic Canadian artist.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

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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

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