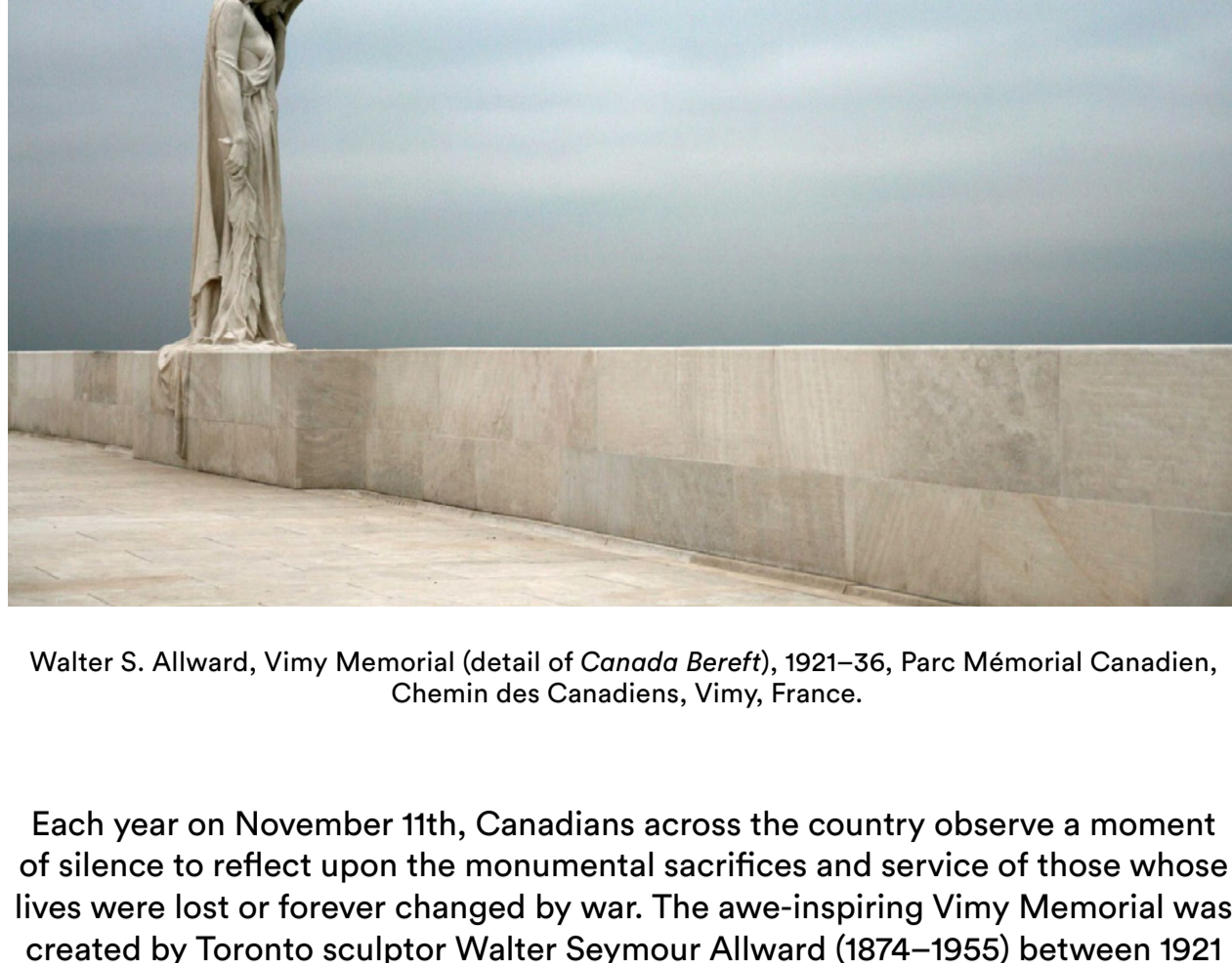


OBSERVING REMEMBRANCE DAY: PAYING TRIBUTE THROUGH ART

As we look ahead to Remembrance Day, we reflect on Canadian and Indigenous artists and artworks that honour those who served.

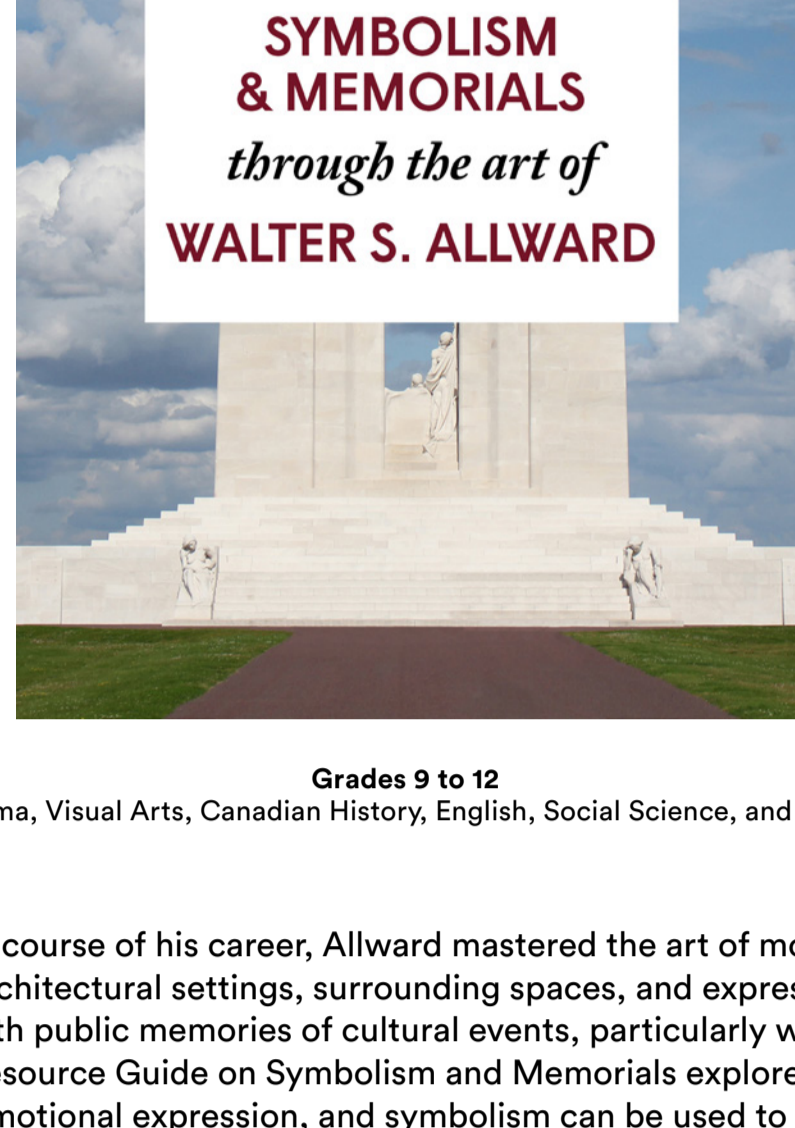


Walter S. Allward, Vimy Memorial (detail of *Canada Bereft*), 1921–36, Parc Mémorial Canadien, Chemin des Canadiens, Vimy, France.

Each year on November 11th, Canadians across the country observe a moment of silence to reflect upon the monumental sacrifices and service of those whose lives were lost or forever changed by war. The awe-inspiring Vimy Memorial was created by Toronto sculptor Walter Seymour Allward (1874–1955) between 1921 and 1936, and it marks the place where over 10,000 Canadian soldiers were killed or wounded in the Battle of Vimy Ridge during the First World War. Veneration of those who served is a cornerstone of war art in Canada, and this week, in anticipation of Remembrance Day, we are honoured to present Canadian artworks and learning resources inspired by their lives, stories, and sacrifices.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

Monuments to Peace and Grief



Grades 9 to 12

Drama, Visual Arts, Canadian History, English, Social Science, and more

Over the course of his career, Allward mastered the art of monuments, combining architectural settings, surrounding spaces, and expressive sculpture to connect with public memories of cultural events, particularly war. Our newest Teacher Resource Guide on Symbolism and Memorials explores how body language, emotional expression, and symbolism can be used to convey visual narratives and evoke empathy—a perfect learning tool for modules on war, commemoration, and symbolic expression.

[Download the Guide Here](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Molly Lamb Bobak's Spotlight on Women in the Army

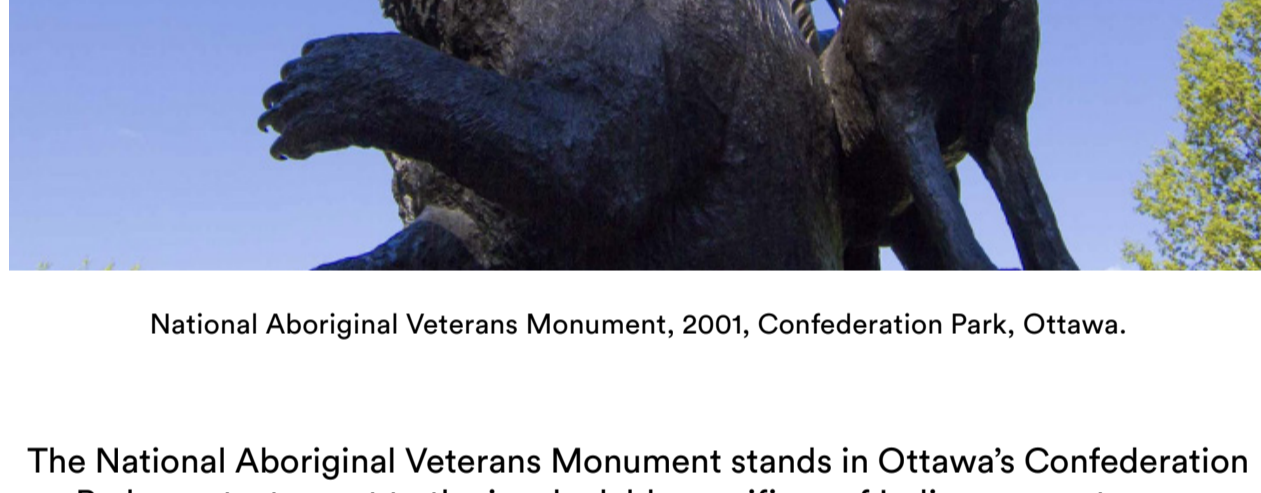


Molly Lamb Bobak, CWACs on Leave in Amsterdam, September, 1945, 1946, oil on canvas, 60.9 x 76.2 cm, Canadian War Museum.

At the center of this lively cityscape by twentieth-century painter Molly Lamb Bobak (1920–2014) stands a group of Canadian women in uniform, strolling through the streets of Amsterdam together. Bobak was the country's first official woman war artist, and her work presents a rare and treasured glimpse into the contributions of the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) to the Second World War. Through sketches, paintings, and her journal entitled *W110278: The Personal War Records of Private Lamb, M.*, 1942–45, she celebrated the contributions of her peers in the military.

[Download our Teacher Resource Guide on Molly Lamb Bobak and Women in the Second World War](#)

A Monument to Indigenous Veterans

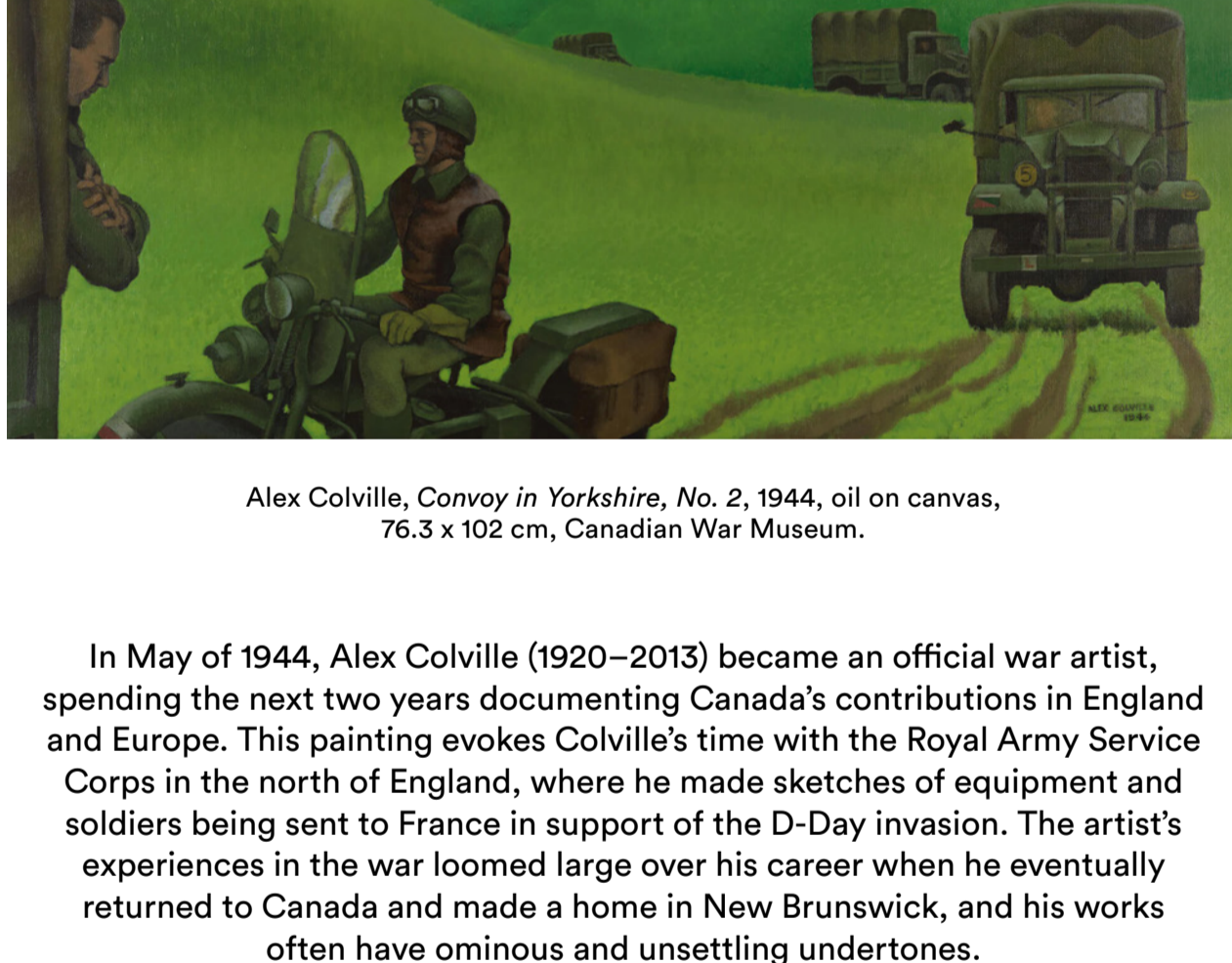


National Aboriginal Veterans Monument, 2001, Confederation Park, Ottawa.

The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument stands in Ottawa's Confederation Park as a testament to the incalculable sacrifices of Indigenous veterans. The work was sculpted in 2001 by artist Noel Lloyd Pinay, a member of the Peepeekisis First Nation in Saskatchewan, and incorporates symbolic references to themes of honour, duty, and peace. Of note is the inclusion of animals as integral to the monument: the grizzly, caribou, buffalo, and wolf serve as spiritual guides, and the majestic eagle is representative of Thunderbird, the Creator.

[Learn more about this monument and watch a short learning video](#)

Alex Colville's Ominous Portrayals of War



Alex Colville, Convoy in Yorkshire, No. 2, 1944, oil on canvas, 76.3 x 102 cm, Canadian War Museum.

In May of 1944, Alex Colville (1920–2013) became an official war artist, spending the next two years documenting Canada's contributions in England and Europe. This painting evokes Colville's time with the Royal Army Service Corps in the north of England, where he made sketches of equipment and soldiers being sent to France in support of the D-Day invasion. The artist's experiences in the war loomed large over his career when he eventually returned to Canada and made a home in New Brunswick, and his works often have ominous and unsettling undertones.

[Read more about Alex Colville's war service](#)

Learn more about Alex Colville's use of tone, realism, and cinematic expression in our [Teacher Resource Guide on literary devices](#)

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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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