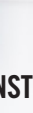
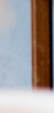
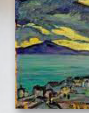
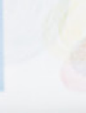
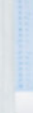
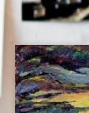
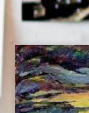
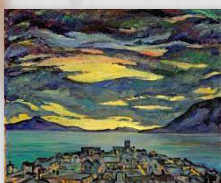
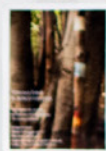


The Canadian Art Inspiration Student Contest

*Artwork Examples
and Ideas to Spark
Student Creativity*



The Canadian Art Inspiration Student Contest

About The Canadian Art Inspiration Student Contest

Open to students from Grade 7 through Grade 12, the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Contest invites submissions of artworks inspired by or responding to leaders in Canadian art history and major Canadian artworks. Applicants are encouraged to interpret this theme as broadly as they wish, and to submit works in any media.

[Apply online](#) before March 31, 2022 at 11:59PM EDT.

Awards will be announced in June of this year. Finalists' artworks will be showcased in an online exhibition, and prizes will be awarded in different age groups (Grades 7 to 9; Grades 10 to 12), with \$500 for first prizes and \$250 for honourable mentions.

About the Art Canada Institute & Our Education Program

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. We are creating a central digital resource to tell the world about Canada's most important works of art: we function as [an online art museum](#), [a digital library](#), and an interactive [Canadian art encyclopedia](#). Our [teaching resources](#) are interdisciplinary, and each of our expert-authored guides follows national education recommendations and is available in both French and English.

For more information about our programming & contest contact:

Jocelyn Anderson
Deputy Director
janderson@aci-iac.ca

Emma Doubt
Editorial and Education Associate
edoubt@aci-iac.ca

Art Activity

Cosmic Connections: The Evening Sky

as inspired by Jock Macdonald's *Departing Day*



Jock Macdonald, *Departing Day*, 1939

What inspires you about the night sky?

For Scottish-born Canadian artist Jock Macdonald, the evening sky was a source of inspiration that brought together his fascination with science, nature, and the solar system, as well as his growing interest in abstract visual forms. In preliminary plans for the work *Departing Day*, 1939, Macdonald expressed an excitement in attempting to portray cosmic connections between moonlight, stars, the milky way, and the sun. This painting was one of a series that he called his “modalities”, which he described as “thought forms in nature.” It can be used to prompt your students to create “modalities” of their own, selecting a natural phenomenon as a point of inspiration.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Jock Macdonald's Art](#)

[View an Online Exhibition of Jock Macdonald's Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Jock Macdonald
1897–1960

Place of birth:
Thurso, Scotland

Died:
Toronto, Ontario

Best known for:
Bold contributions to
abstract painting

Art Activity

Traditions in My Community

as inspired by William Kurelek's *Ukrainian Canadian Farm Picnic*



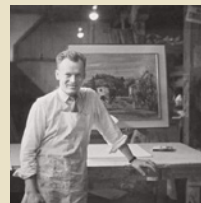
William Kurelek, *Ukrainian Canadian Farm Picnic*, 1966

What are the traditions in your community?

The incredible diversity of Canada means that our cultural tapestry is rich with distinctive traditions. Artist William Kurelek was raised in Manitoba, but his Ukrainian heritage informed many of his experiences and his sense of identity. This aspect of his life also made its way into his work, as with paintings like *Ukrainian Canadian Farm Picnic*, 1966, which was included in a series he created to explore the roles of Ukrainian women in Canada. Kurelek was inspired by Canada's multiculturalism, travelling far and wide to capture the celebrations of people across the country. His representation of cultural heritage is an inspiring point of departure for student artworks that similarly express the traditions and practices of their own communities.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on William Kurelek's Art](#)

[View an Online Exhibition of William Kurelek's Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

William Kurelek
1927–1977

Place of birth:
A grain farm north of Willingdon, Alberta

Died:
Toronto, Ontario

Best known for:
Representing Depression-era farm life in Canada and the country's cultural mosaic

Art Activity

Picturesque Postcards: Artistic Visions for My Milieu

as inspired by Maud Lewis's *Winter Sleigh Ride*



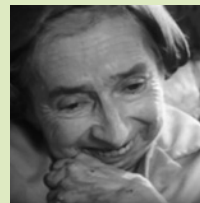
Maud Lewis, *Winter Sleigh Ride*, c.1960s

What is your artistic vision for where you live?

There is a reason that folk artist Maud Lewis's paintings have been transformed into postcards, holiday cards, posters, and stamps: their picturesque quality has captured the hearts and imaginations of Canadians for decades. Many of Lewis's scenes feature the distinctive qualities of her surroundings in Nova Scotia, like the red-roofed chapel, colourful house facades, snowy terrain, and hilly landscape visible in *Winter Sleigh Ride*, c.1960s. As author of *Maud Lewis: Life & Work* Ray Cronin notes, "Her artistic vision of Nova Scotia eventually helped change the way Nova Scotians saw their own province." This observation presents an interesting challenge for art projects inspired by students' own communities.

[Read Maud Lewis: Life & Work](#)

[Watch a Video about Maud Lewis](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Maud Lewis
1901–1970

Place of birth:
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Died:
Digby, Nova Scotia

Best known for:
Popularizing folk art in Canada through colourful depictions of Nova Scotia

Art Activity

Finding Beauty in the Everyday: Experimenting with Still Life

as inspired by Mary Pratt's *Supper Table*



Mary Pratt, *Supper Table*, 1969

What objects in the home do you find meaningful?

For realist painter Mary Pratt, the creative potential of the everyday was an endless source of inspiration for her meticulously rendered images of domestic interiors. *Supper Table*, 1969, introduces a contemporary twist into the spirit of still life painting, a genre that dates back to the 1600s. It is the result of an epiphany that Pratt had when she noticed the beauty in a streak of fleeting light pouring in through the window and illuminating the dinner table. Pratt's creative spin on the representation of everyday objects offers a glimpse into the potential of still life projects, and the many directions this artform can take.

[Read Mary Pratt: Life & Work](#)

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Mary Pratt's Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Mary Pratt
1935–2018

Place of birth:
Fredericton,
New Brunswick

Died:
St. John's, Newfoundland

Best known for:
Being Canada's foremost
realist painter, with
subject matter focused
on the everyday

Art Activity

The World Around Me: Media Stories from 2021

as inspired by Annie Pootoogook's *Gold Star TV*



Annie Pootoogook, *Gold Star TV*, 2003–4

How would you respond to the news through art?

In this drawing, Annie Pootoogook represents a news anchor on the television program Iglaaq, which reports stories about Inuit Nunangat to Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in Inuktitut. Pootoogook was a trailblazing Inuit artist from Kinngait, Nunavut, who rose to international fame for her contemporary vignettes of everyday life in the North. Southern broadcasting arrived in the Arctic in 1972, and Pootoogook was part of the first generation of Inuit to grow up with television in her household—a major factor in shaping her understanding of the larger world outside her community. Media is a recurring theme in many of her images, and they provide a touchstone for visual creations that respond to news stories from around the world.

[Read Annie Pootoogook: Life & Work](#)

[Read a Spotlight Feature on Annie Pootoogook's Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Annie Pootoogook
1969–2016

Place of birth:
Kinngait (Cape Dorset),
Nunavut

Died:
Ottawa, Ontario

Best known for:
Contemporary depictions
of life in Nunavut, based
on everyday life

Art Activity

The Power of Portraits: Leaders I Admire

as inspired by Zacharie Vincent's *Self-portrait*



Zacharie Vincent, *Self-portrait*, n.d.

Who are the leaders that you look up to?

The power of portraits to venerate authority is ever-present in the work of painter Zacharie Vincent, who was a member of the Huron-Wendat community in Jeune-Lorette, just north of Quebec City. In an artistic environment that often left the representation of Indigenous people and communities in the hands of settler-colonial artists, Vincent's portraits were unique: he was commemorating his own culture, character, and lineage. Adaptable in a variety of mediums, from photography to collage to painting, portraits are a classroom favourite, and in the spirit of Zacharie Vincent, we invite students to produce artworks that honour the leaders in Canada who they admire.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Zacharie Vincent's Art](#)

[View an Online Exhibition of Zacharie Vincent's Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Zacharie Vincent
1815–1886

Place of birth:
Jeune-Lorette, a Huron-Wendat village located north of Quebec City (today known as the Wendake Reserve)

Died:
Quebec City, Quebec

Best known for:
Portraits, studies, and landscape views of his community

Art Activity

Exploring Mosaics, Motifs, and Patterns

as inspired by Karen Tam's *From Yiwu to you*



Karen Tam, *From Yiwu to you* (detail), 2015–present

How can patterns be used to create images?

If you look closely at this work by contemporary Montreal-based artist Karen Tam, you will see different images coming together to tell the story of global trade and intercultural exchange between the East and the West. *From Yiwu to you*, 2015–present, refers to the Yiwu Market on China's East Coast. Historical references like the Tang dynasty (618–907) lion mix and mingle with contemporary scenes, including the wind farm and high-speed train in the right-hand corner. To evoke these connections between past and present, Tam uses mosaic-like patterns and motifs in cyanotype (a kind of photographic print that is cyan blue) to create a tile pattern, as seen in the concentric diamond shapes that break up the composition. We invite students to explore the mosaic form and develop motifs and patterns that tell a story of their own.

[View an Online Exhibition of Karen Tam's Art](#)

[Read an Essay about Karen Tam's Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Karen Tam
b.1977

Place of birth:
Montreal, Quebec

Best known for:
Exploring sites of cultural encounter, with a special focus on Chinese cultural heritage

Art Activity

Mapping My Relationships with Living Things

as inspired by Norval Morrisseau's *Children with Tree of Life*



Norval Morrisseau, *Children with Tree of Life*, c.1980–85

How do we connect to our living world?

This question is at the heart of many works by famed Anishinaabe artist Norval Morrisseau. Throughout his celebrated career, Morrisseau created paintings that explored the deep nature of connection, emphasizing the notion of land as relational, and communicating his worldview that people live in relationship with animals, plants, the earth, and the spiritual world. *Children with Tree of Life*, c.1980–85, expresses some of these links through Morrisseau's distinctive use of lines that flow seamlessly from a central tree to the living things around it. Motivated by Morrisseau's evocation of interdependent relationships, we invite student artworks that reflect on the different ways we are connected to our world.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Norval Morrisseau's Art](#)

[Watch a Video about Norval Morrisseau](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Norval Morrisseau
1931–2007

Place of birth:
Fort William, Ontario

Died:
Toronto, Ontario

Best known for:
Developing a distinctive style of painting, and emerging as one of the most important contemporary Indigenous artists in Canada in the 1970s

Art Activity

Creative Approaches to the “Selfie”

as inspired by Michael Snow’s *Venetian Blind*



Michael Snow, *Venetian Blind*, 1970

How might you experiment with selfies in art?

For decades, contemporary artist Michael Snow has introduced complexity and beauty into visual art using experimental techniques. From sculpture and installation to video and photography, Snow’s oeuvre is wide-ranging, and often incorporates the repetition of different images and visual themes, as in *Venetian Blind*, 1970. For this work, Snow repeatedly photographed himself with a polaroid camera. Taking this creative approach to self-portraiture into consideration, we invite student artworks that engage with the context of “selfie culture”—one that is pervasive in our world today—in thought-provoking and creative ways.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Michael Snow’s Art](#)

[View an Online Exhibition of Michael Snow’s Art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Michael Snow
b.1928

Place of birth:
Toronto, Ontario

Best known for:
Experimental approaches to contemporary culture, including visual art, film, and music

Art Activity

Mapping Memory: Recreating Family Stories

as inspired by *Tintype of Young African American Woman Seated at Table*



Unknown, *Tintype of Young African American Woman Seated at Table*, n.d.

How can historic photographs provide inspiration?

Historical photographs like this one can be understood as an opportunity to travel through time, and to see stories from the past unfold in the present moment. This portrait is part of an important archive that comprises over 300 images documenting members of the Bell and Sloman families, who are descendants of former enslaved people in the American south. It is a powerful archive for gaining a deeper understanding of African Canadian history through the story of two families, enshrining moments from the past that have special resonance in the present and future. Stories are part of the rich fabric of every family, and we invite student projects that visualize memories that have been passed down in their own family trees.

[View an Online Exhibition featuring this work](#)

[Learn more about African Canadian Art History in an Online Exhibition](#)



Get to Know the Archive:

The Bell-Sloman Collection

What:

Over 300 historical photographs picturing members of the Bell and Sloman families

Where:

James Gibson Library, Brock University

Best known as:

A remarkable archive of photographs picturing families whose histories reach back to slavery in the American South