

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

GIRL POWER: CANADIAN ARTISTS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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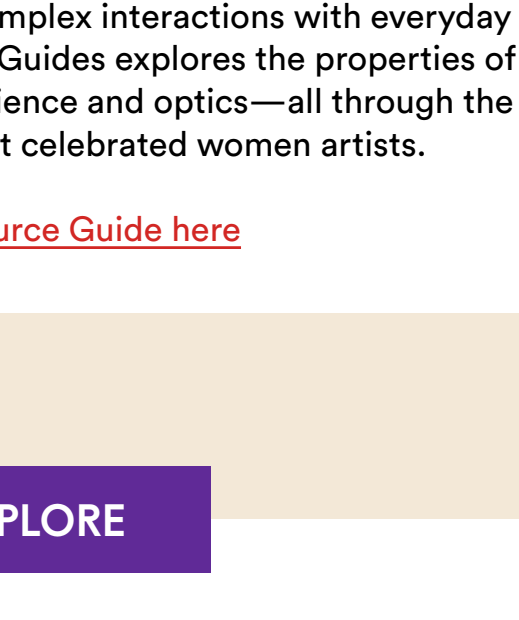
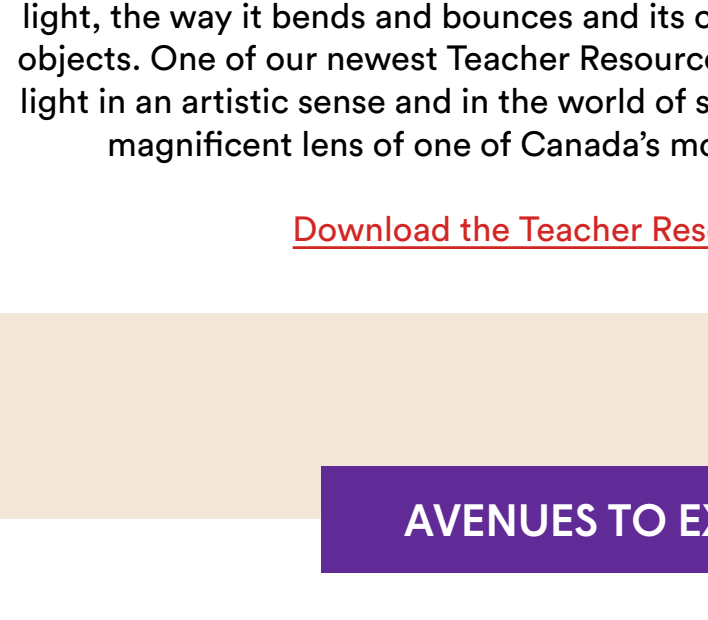


Esmaa Mohamoud, *One of the Boys (Double Dutch I)*, 2018

One of the Boys is the title of Toronto-based artist Esmaa Mohamoud's (b.1992) powerful and provocative photographic series that explores a range of intersections, from gender expectations to the underrepresentation of women in sports. Inspired by a childhood recollection of being told that she was not "one of the boys", the artist depicts individual figures wearing basketball jerseys that have been transformed into magnificent ball gowns, challenging the hyper-masculinity often associated with professional sports organizations. With International Women's Day coming up on March 8, series like this one provide an opportunity to introduce care, creativity, and nuance into discussions about gender equality in Canada. Read on for a selection of activities from the ACI library of digital teaching resources—all inspired by the incredible work of women artists in Canada.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

Extraordinary illuminations



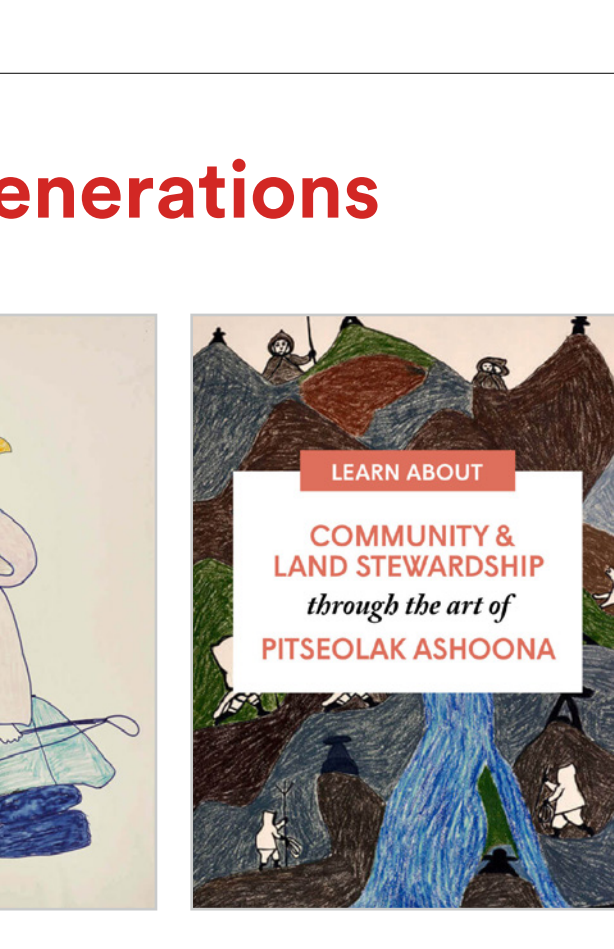
Mary Pratt, *Red Currant Jelly*, 1972, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

Often championed for her feminist approach to art making, Newfoundland-based painter Mary Pratt (1935–2018) was talented at portraying a vast array of subject matter, from still lifes to domestic interiors. However, if there is one thing that shines through in all her work, it is her masterful representation of light, the way it bends and bounces and its complex interactions with everyday objects. One of our newest Teacher Resource Guides explores the properties of light in an artistic sense and in the world of science and optics—all through the magnificent lens of one of Canada's most celebrated women artists.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide here](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Radical Actions



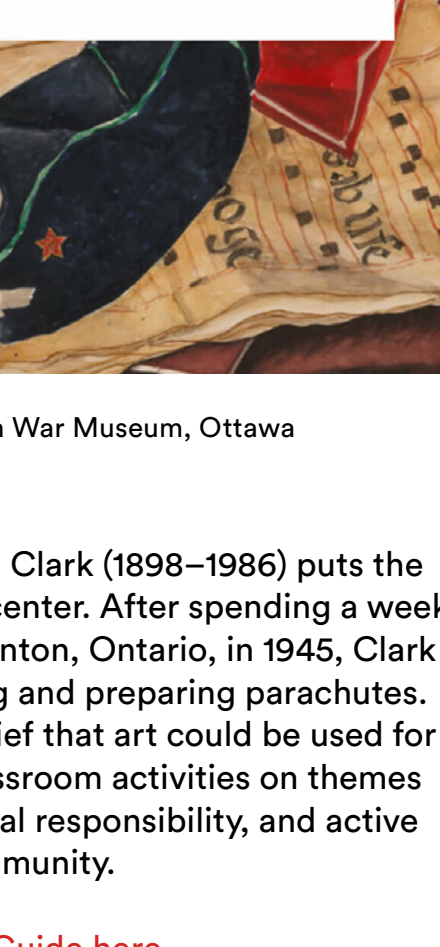
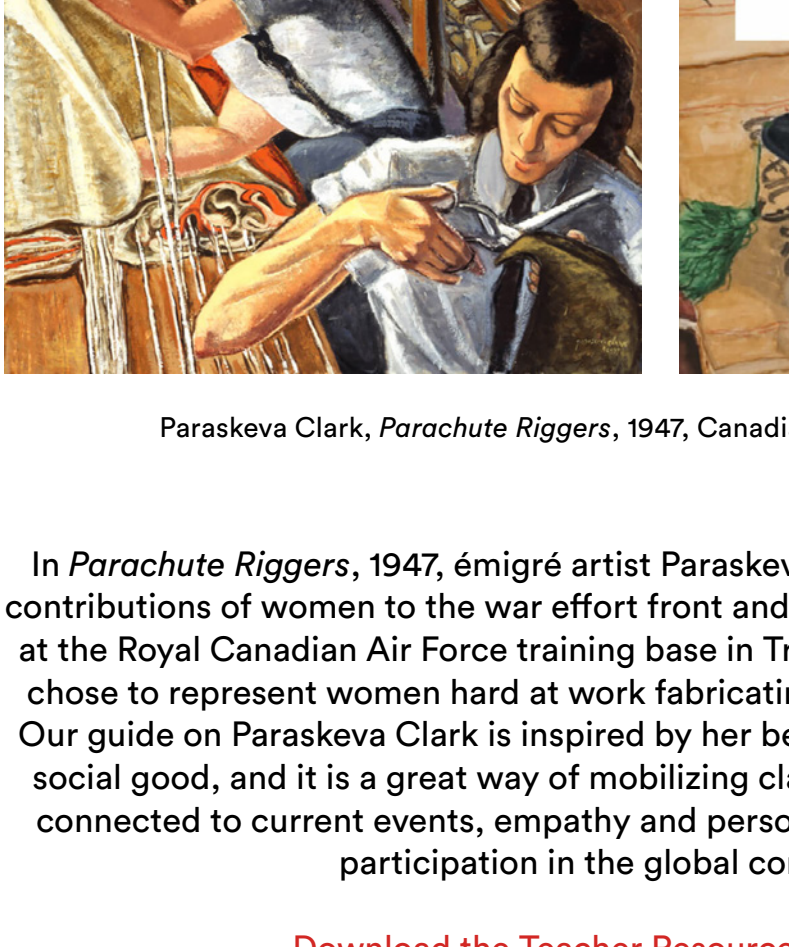
Prudence Heward, *Rollande*, 1929, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

Bold, strong-willed, and defiant: these traits come to mind when admiring the female protagonists of Prudence Heward's (1896–1947) modern portraits. A Montreal-born artist associated with the popular Beaver Hall group, Heward almost exclusively painted women subjects throughout the 1920s and 1930s, capturing the changing expectations for women in the early twentieth century. Our guide on early 20th-century women is the perfect addition to International Women's Day curricula, inviting students to look closely at depictions of historical women; to discuss race, colonialism, and limitations on freedoms for women; and to create a social media campaign for the interwar era.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide here](#)

[Watch a Learning Video about Prudence Heward here](#)

Leading Generations



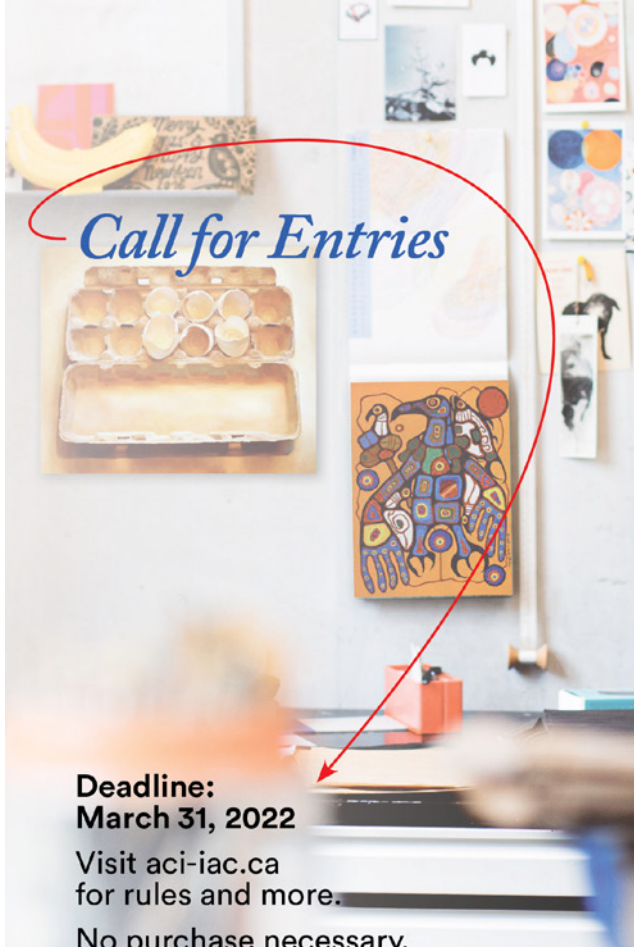
Pitseolak Ashoona, drawing for print *Summer Camp Scene*, c. 1966–76, West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Ltd.

Considered by many to be the matriarch of modern Inuit art, Pitseolak Ashoona (c.1904–1983) provides ample inspiration for learning about the lives of women in her community. Ashoona created thousands of original drawings depicting stories and traditions in Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin Island), and many of these emphasize the vital significance of women. Our Teacher Resource Guide centralizes the power of Ashoona's work and activities about land stewardship inspired by her art.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide here](#)

[Watch a Learning Video about Pitseolak Ashoona here](#)

Radical Actions



Paraskeva Clark, *Parachute Riggers*, 1947, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa

In *Parachute Riggers*, 1947, émigré artist Paraskeva Clark (1898–1986) puts the contributions of women to the war effort front and center. After spending a week at the Royal Canadian Air Force training base in Trenton, Ontario, in 1945, Clark chose to represent women hard at work fabricating and preparing parachutes. Our guide on Paraskeva Clark is inspired by her belief that art could be used for social good, and it is a great way of mobilizing classroom activities on themes connected to current events, empathy and personal responsibility, and active participation in the global community.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide here](#)

[See an Online Exhibition of Paraskeva Clark's art](#)

SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR ACI'S STUDENT ART CONTEST



The Canadian Art Inspiration Student Contest

Call for Entries

Deadline: March 31, 2022

Visit aci-iac.ca for rules and more.

No purchase necessary.

Are you facilitating art projects inspired by Canadian art this International Women's Day? Why not submit them to the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Contest: submissions are now open for the 2022 edition of ACI's flagship educational initiative, open to students from Grade 7 through Grade 12. The deadline to submit student artworks is March 31, 2022, and you can learn more by heading over to our contest website.

[Learn more about the contest here](#)

[For project ideas, consult a Student Creativity Booklet 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.

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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

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Image Credits: [1] Esmaa Mohamoud, *One of the Boys (Double Dutch I)*, 2018. Inkjet print, 60 x 40 inches. Courtesy of the artist. [2] Mary Pratt, *Red Currant Jelly*, 1972. Oil on Masonite, 45.9 x 45.6 cm. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Purchased 1976 (18526). © Estate of Mary Pratt. [3] Prudence Heward, *Rollande*, 1929. Oil on canvas, 139.9 x 101.7 cm. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, no. 3709. [4] Pitseolak Ashoona, drawing for print *Summer Camp Scene*, c. 1966–76. Wax crayon and coloured felt-tip pen on paper, 45.7 x 61.2 cm. Collection of the West Baffin Eskimo Co-operative Ltd., on loan to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, Kleinburg, Ontario, C.D.27.1736. © Dorset Fine Arts. [5] Paraskeva Clark, *Parachute Riggers*, 1947. Oil on canvas, 101.7 x 81.4 cm. Beaverbrook Collection of War Art, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa (AN1970261-5679). © Estate of Paraskeva Clark. Photo credit: Canadian War Museum.