

SPRING INTO SUMMER

SEASONAL BRILLIANCE

With nature in full bloom, we are looking to 5 Canadian works that represent the splendor of this time of year.



Matthew Wong, *Blue Rain*, 2018

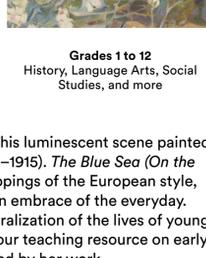
With its astonishing palette of blues, this atmospheric creation by Edmonton-based artist Matthew Wong (1984–2019) captures the drama of a rainy evening and the vitality of the grasses, flowers, and trees sustained by the water. Growth is part of the glorious shift from spring to summer, and seasonal wonders have been depicted in visionary ways by artists in Canada, from Shuvinaï Ashoona's (b.1961) drawing of a summer sealift in her northern community to Molly Lamb Bobak's (1920–2014) celebratory painting of an outdoor kite festival. We know this transitional time is a special one for teachers as we look forward to the renewal and restoration of summer after a busy school year. With June just on the horizon, we are sharing 5 Canadian works about the transformational period between two of our most jubilant seasons.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

Seaside Splendour



Helen McNicoll, *The Blue Sea (On the Beach at St. Malo)*, c.1914



LEARN ABOUT
EARLY 20TH CENTURY
CHILDHOOD
through the art of
HELEN MCNICOLL

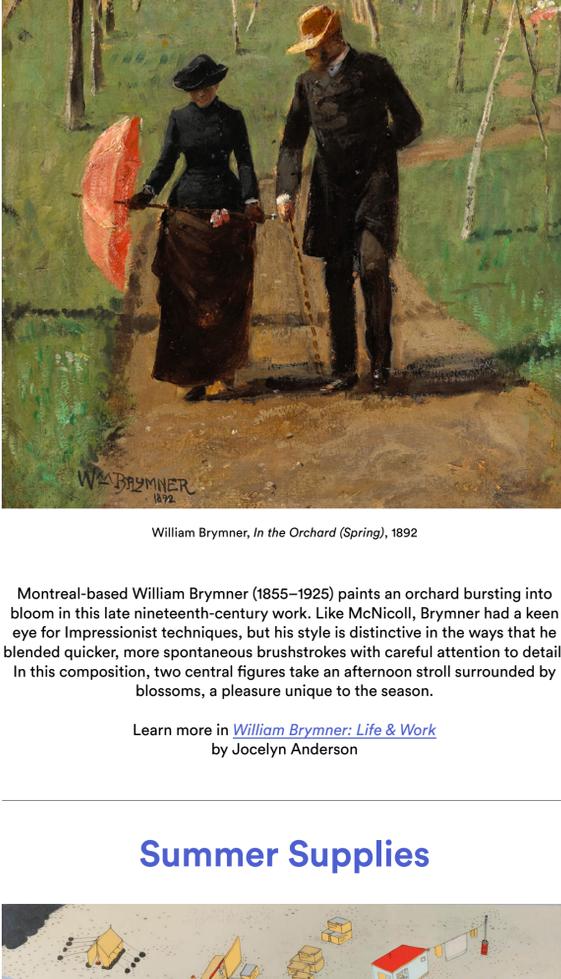
Grades 1 to 12
History, Language Arts, Social
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The warmth of a day at the seaside is captured in this luminescent scene painted by Canadian Impressionist Helen McNicoll (1879–1915). *The Blue Sea (On the Beach at St. Malo)*, c.1914, holds many of the trappings of the European style, including an attention to light and colour and an embrace of the everyday. McNicoll's creations were remarkable in their centralization of the lives of young girls and children, and this subject is the focus of our teaching resource on early twentieth-century childhood inspired by her work.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide](#)

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Strolling in Springtime



William Brymner, *In the Orchard (Spring)*, 1892

Montreal-based William Brymner (1855–1925) paints an orchard bursting into bloom in this late nineteenth-century work. Like McNicoll, Brymner had a keen eye for Impressionist techniques, but his style is distinctive in the ways that he blended quicker, more spontaneous brushstrokes with careful attention to detail. In this composition, two central figures take an afternoon stroll surrounded by blossoms, a pleasure unique to the season.

Learn more in [William Brymner: Life & Work](#) by Jocelyn Anderson

Summer Supplies



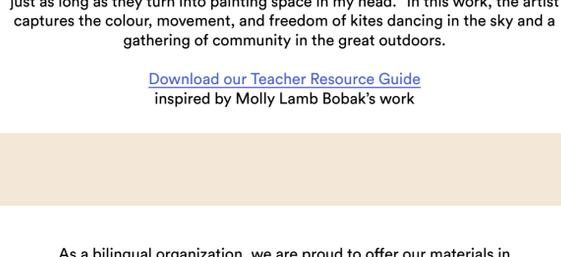
Shuvinaï Ashoona, *Summer Sealift*, 2004

Shuvinaï Ashoona (b.1961) is one of the most celebrated contemporary artists in Canada, with a reputation that has garnered her international acclaim. *Summer Sealift*, 2004, presents the artist's signature use of aerial perspective in a scene that represents a cargo ship carrying supplies of goods and materials to northern communities in Nunavut. Ashoona is known for creating extraordinary works that blend fantasy and realism, depictions of community, and experimental perspectives.

Bring Shuvinaï Ashoona's art into your classroom through an [online exhibition](#)

Read more in [Shuvinaï Ashoona: Life & Work](#) by Nancy G. Campbell

Seasonal Festivities



Molly Lamb Bobak, *The Great Kite Festival No. 2*, n.d.

Spring is in the air in this joyous painting by Molly Lamb Bobak (1920–2014), one of Canada's most important historical women artists. She was particularly drawn to crowd scenes, noting, "I have always been interested in informal movement—blowing wild flowers, parades, protests, crowds on the street, crowds anywhere; just as long as they turn into painting space in my head." In this work, the artist captures the colour, movement, and freedom of dancing in the sky and a gathering of community in the great outdoors.

[Download our Teacher Resource Guide](#) inspired by Molly Lamb Bobak's work

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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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