

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, abstract composition. It features several circular paint palettes in various colors: yellow, blue, red, and green. The palettes are arranged in a way that they appear to be floating or scattered. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly black or dark grey, which is covered with numerous small, colorful splatters and droplets of paint in shades of blue, yellow, and green. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and artistic creativity.

The Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge

**Artwork Examples and Ideas
to Spark Student Creativity**

The Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge

About the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge

Open to students from Grade 7 through Grade 12, the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge invites submissions of original student artworks and accompanying artist statements 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 April 7, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. (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, multivocal 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 all of our expert-authored guides follow national education recommendations and are available in both French and English.

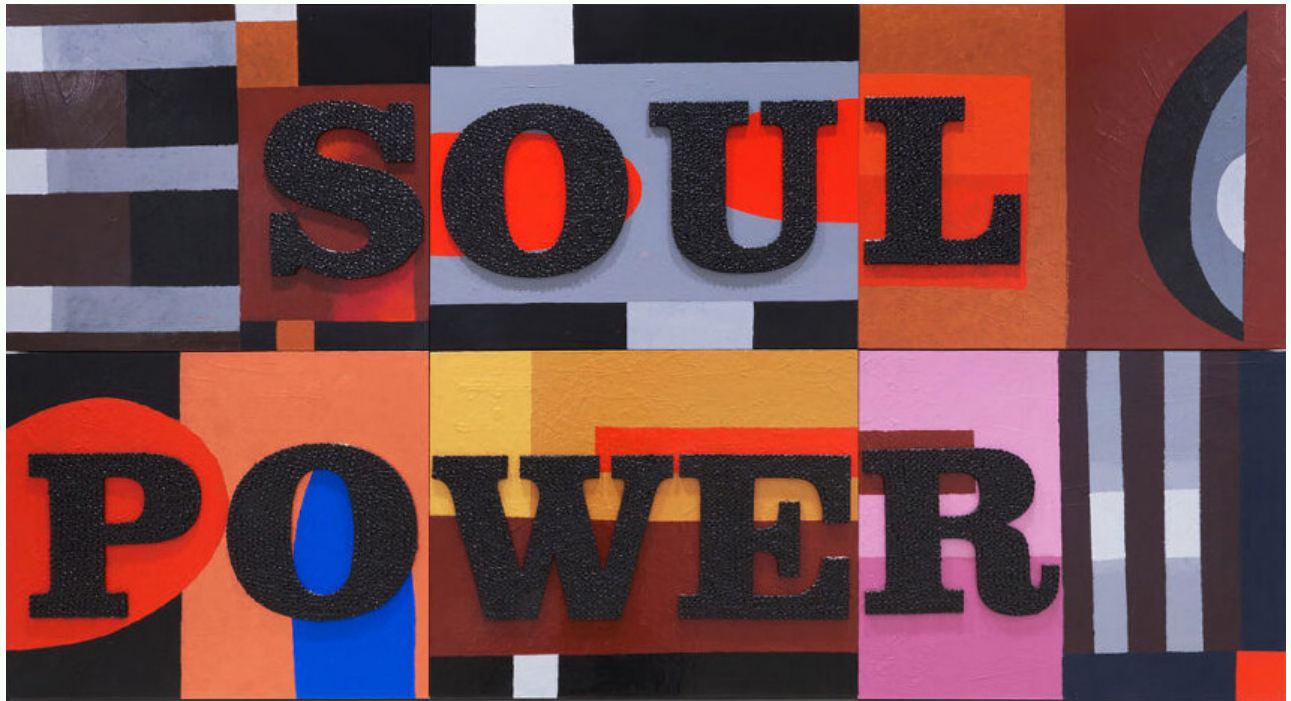
For more information
about our programming
& challenge, contact:

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Art Activity

Jan Wade: Songs That Inspire

as inspired by Jan Wade's *Soul Power*



Jan Wade, *Soul Power*, 2021

Which Song Lyrics Inspire You to Create?

The work of contemporary artist Jan Wade communicates strong cultural ties to jazz and blues music, genres that resonate in her textiles, sculptures, and paintings. *Soul Power* is inspired by the music of the legendary James Brown (1933–2006), often nicknamed the “Godfather of Soul.” Wade was exposed to his lyrical harmonies early in her life, and several of her creations engage with rhythm, syncopation, pattern, and harmony. These motifs can be made visual in surprising and creative ways, and we invite student works that are inspired by songs, lyrics, or musical phrases that are meaningful for them.

[View an Online Exhibition of Jan Wade's art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Jan Wade
B.1952

Place of birth:
Hamilton, Ontario

Best known for:
Contemporary mixed-media work, paintings, textiles, and sculptural objects that engage with political, spiritual, and social transformation

Art Activity

Ozias Leduc: What's on My Plate

as inspired by Ozias Leduc's *Green Apples (Pommes vertes)*



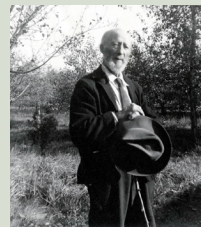
Ozias Leduc, *Green Apples (Pommes vertes)*, 1914–15

What Are the Food Traditions in Your Family?

Quebec artist Ozias Leduc once said, “Art is tasty, it must be neat, frank and carry the sap of the land where it grows.” This visual metaphor connects two of Leduc’s greatest loves: painting and the landscape of Mont-Saint-Hilaire, where he grew up. Allusions to food appear in many of his best-known images, like this one picturing the green apples grown on the family apple orchard. It is a meaningful way to explore the personal joys, traditions, and origin stories connected to the nourishment on our plates, and an engaging way to facilitate student projects about food traditions in their own cultures.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Ozias Leduc’s art](#)

[Read more about Ozias Leduc](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Ozias Leduc
1864–1955

Place of birth:
Saint-Hilaire, Quebec

Best known for:
Academic paintings that engage with themes of work, nature, and spirituality in the context of 19th and early 20th-century Quebec

Art Activity

Shuvinai Ashoona: The Art of Athletics

as inspired by Shuvinai Ashoona's *Handstand*



LEFT: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Handstand*, 2010, coloured pencil and ink on paper; RIGHT: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Handstand*, 2010, stonecut and stencil, printed by Qiatsug Niviaqsi

What Keeps You Moving?

In these two works by contemporary Inuit artist Shuvinai Ashoona—one a drawing and the other a print created from the original—a young figure balances impressively on their hands, supporting the body in a handstand that is suspended in time. Known for her depictions of people, communities, and stories from her home in Kinngait, as well as her ability to integrate elements of the imaginary and fantastical into the everyday, Ashoona does not disappoint with this playful rendition of a towering physical task. For this activity prompt, students are invited to create works that represent the sports, activities, and exercise challenges that keep them moving.

[View an Online Exhibition of Shuvinai Ashoona's art](#)

[Read more about Shuvinai Ashoona](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Shuvinai Ashoona
B.1961

Place of birth:
Kinngait, Nunavut

Best known for:
Contemporary works on paper that bring together images of daily life in the North with elements of the fantastical

LEFT: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Handstand*, 2010, coloured pencil and ink on paper, 76 x 56 cm. Dorset Fine Arts, Toronto. © Dorset Fine Arts. Reproduced with the permission of Dorset Fine Arts.

RIGHT: Shuvinai Ashoona, *Handstand*, 2010, stonecut and stencil, printed by Qiatsug Niviaqsi, 86.3 x 62 cm. Dorset Fine Arts, Toronto, and various collections (CD10-33). Courtesy of Dorset Fine Arts. © Dorset Fine Arts. Reproduced with the permission of Dorset Fine Arts.

Art Activity

C.D. Hoy: Connecting with My Neighbours

as inspired by C.D. Hoy's *C.D. Hoy and Josephine Alexander*



C.D. Hoy, *C.D. Hoy and Josephine Alexander*, c.1915

Who Are the Members of Your Community?

In early twentieth-century Quesnel, British Columbia, individuals of diverse backgrounds—including Indigenous people, Chinese Canadians, and European settlers—formed a cross-cultural community. Their connections, friendships, and networks are captured in the remarkable portraiture of photographer C.D. Hoy, who moved to B.C. as a young man and offered his photographic services to locals looking to get their pictures taken. Whether behind the camera or in front of it, photography is a powerful way of exploring and documenting our connections to our neighbours, and we invite projects that pay tribute to students' own neighbourhood communities.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on C.D. Hoy's art](#)

[View an Online Exhibition of C.D. Hoy's art](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

C.D. Hoy
1883–1973

Place of birth:
Guangdong Province,
China

Best known for:
Photographic portraits
of diverse communities
in early 20th-century
Quesnel, British Columbia

Art Activity

Molly Lamb Bobak: Out on the Town

as inspired by Molly Lamb Bobak's *The Great Kite Festival No. 2*



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

What Public Spaces Do You Most Enjoy?

After two years of restricted access to group gatherings and spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic, for many the return to parks, movie theatres, and local shops marks a welcome resumption of life in public. For New Brunswick artist Molly Lamb Bobak, group scenes, cityscapes, and depictions of busy, outdoor spaces were a way of communicating the vibrancy and joy of community, like her work depicting an outdoor kite festival, pictured here. While our time being indoors presented opportunities to reflect and unite in spirit, students are invited to explore the pleasure of the public in works that depict the places that are cause for celebration in their lives.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Molly Lamb Bobak](#)

[Watch a Learning Video about Molly Lamb Bobak](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Molly Lamb Bobak
1920–2014

Place of birth:
Lulu Island, British
Columbia

Best known for:
Being Canada's first
official woman war
artist, and creating lively
cityscapes and group
scenes

Art Activity

Kazuo Nakamura: Experimental Forms

as inspired by Kazuo Nakamura's *Reversed Images*



Kazuo Nakamura, *Reversed Images*, 1965

How Can We Experiment with Representation?

In this painting by Japanese Canadian artist Kazuo Nakamura, things are not entirely what they seem. Challenging the principles of the traditional still life genre, which often features everyday objects in an observational way, Nakamura has quite literally flipped the depiction on its head, reversing the images of apples and pears that comprise the work. Known for his unconventional approaches to representational painting, Nakamura was interested in the basic underlying principles of the universe, and images that feature reversal, repetition, and reflection are inspiring gateways into student projects that creatively unsettle artistic convention.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Kazuo Nakamura's art](#)

[Read more about Kazuo Nakamura](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Kazuo Nakamura
1926–2002

Place of birth:
Vancouver,
British Columbia

Best known for:
Experimental approaches
to painting, including,
most notably, the land-
scape and still life genres

Art Activity

Henri Masson: Seasonal Pastimes

as inspired by Henri Masson's *Skaters, Anglesea Square*



Henri Masson, *Skaters, Anglesea Square*, 1940

What Are Your Favourite Seasonal Hobbies?

With the winter months upon us, families across the country are engaging in the activities that are characteristic of the season—and looking for creative ways of getting outside. In this charming work by Quebec painter Henri Masson, a group of skaters move around the rink in Ottawa's Anglesea Square, with a full range of ability on display. While some speed forward, others catch their balance; but together, the group offers an inspiring look at one of the season's most beloved pastimes. From fireside reading to dusting off those skates, we invite representations of seasonal traditions that students hold dear.

[Read more about Henri Masson](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Henri Masson
1907–1996

Place of birth:
Spy, Belgium

Best known for:
Modernist paintings that depict scenes of rural and urban spaces in Quebec

Art Activity

Annie Pootoogook: Momentous Milestones

as inspired by Annie Pootoogook's *Untitled*



Annie Pootoogook, *Untitled* (Kenojuak and Annie with Governor General Michaëlle Jean), 2010

What Was a Defining Moment in Your Life?

In this work by contemporary Inuit artist Annie Pootoogook (1969–2016), an important career landmark is commemorated. Pootoogook pictures herself standing between two iconic figures in Canadian culture and politics: the celebrated artist Kenojuak Ashevak (1927–2013), pictured on the left; and Governor General Michaëlle Jean, pictured on the right. Inspired by the milestones in their own lives, we invite students to reflect on a defining moment of change, transformation, or growth through an original work of creative self-portraiture.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Annie Pootoogook](#)

[Read more about Annie Pootoogook](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Annie Pootoogook
1969–2007

Place of birth:
Kinngait, Nunavut

Best known for:
Contemporary depictions of everyday life in Nunavut

Art Activity

Gathie Falk: Veneration of the Ordinary

as inspired by Gathie Falk's *Single Right Men's Shoes: Blue Running Shoes*



Gathie Falk, *Single Right Men's Shoes: Blue Running Shoes*, c.1973

How Can We Find Beauty in the Everyday?

One of the most celebrated artists in the country, Gathie Falk has developed a body of work that transforms ordinary objects of everyday life into extraordinary sculptures and paintings. From pyramids of glistening grapefruits to shelves of shiny shoes like this one, Falk's creations hold close ties to the things that surround her, and her emphasis on the handmade resonates in each one. As she notes, "For most of the sculptures I've made I have wanted to have soft, undulating surfaces.... I wanted them to look as though they were alive: living breathing objects." Taking inspiration from Falk's uncanny ability to find substance in simplicity, we invite student works that breathe a little life into ordinary objects.

[Read more about Gathie Falk](#)



Get to Know the Artist:

Gathie Falk
B.1928

Place of birth:
Alexander, Manitoba

Best known for:
Her creative engagement
with ordinary, everyday
objects in painting and
ceramics

Art Activity

Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald: The View from My Window

as inspired by Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald's *From An Upstairs Window, Winter*



Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald,
From An Upstairs Window, Winter, c.1950–51

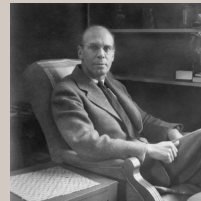
What Are Your Most Cherished Surroundings?

Growing up on the Prairies, Winnipeg-born painter Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald had plenty to work with, including the vast grasslands that comprise Western Canada; the special quality of light that is characteristic of the Prairie skies; and the blanket of snow that covers the terrain each winter. In some of his best-known works, like *From An Upstairs Window, Winter*, FitzGerald captured the characteristic beauty of the region through the depiction of exterior vignettes—a motif that gained him the reputation, according to art critic Robert Ayre, of being “the man who looks out of the window.” This activity invites students to slow down and engage in observational drawing to depict one of their favourite views.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide
on Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald](#)

[Read more about Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald](#)

IMAGE: Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald, *From an Upstairs Window, Winter*, c. 1950–51, oil on canvas, 61 x 45.7 cm. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, purchased, 1951 (5800). © With the permission of Patricia and Earl Green, co-holders of the FitzGerald copyright. Photo credit: National Gallery of Canada.



Get to Know the Artist:

**Lionel LeMoine
FitzGerald**
1890–1956

Place of birth:
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Best known for:
His modernist explorations of his surroundings, and his loving depictions of the Prairie landscape through painting