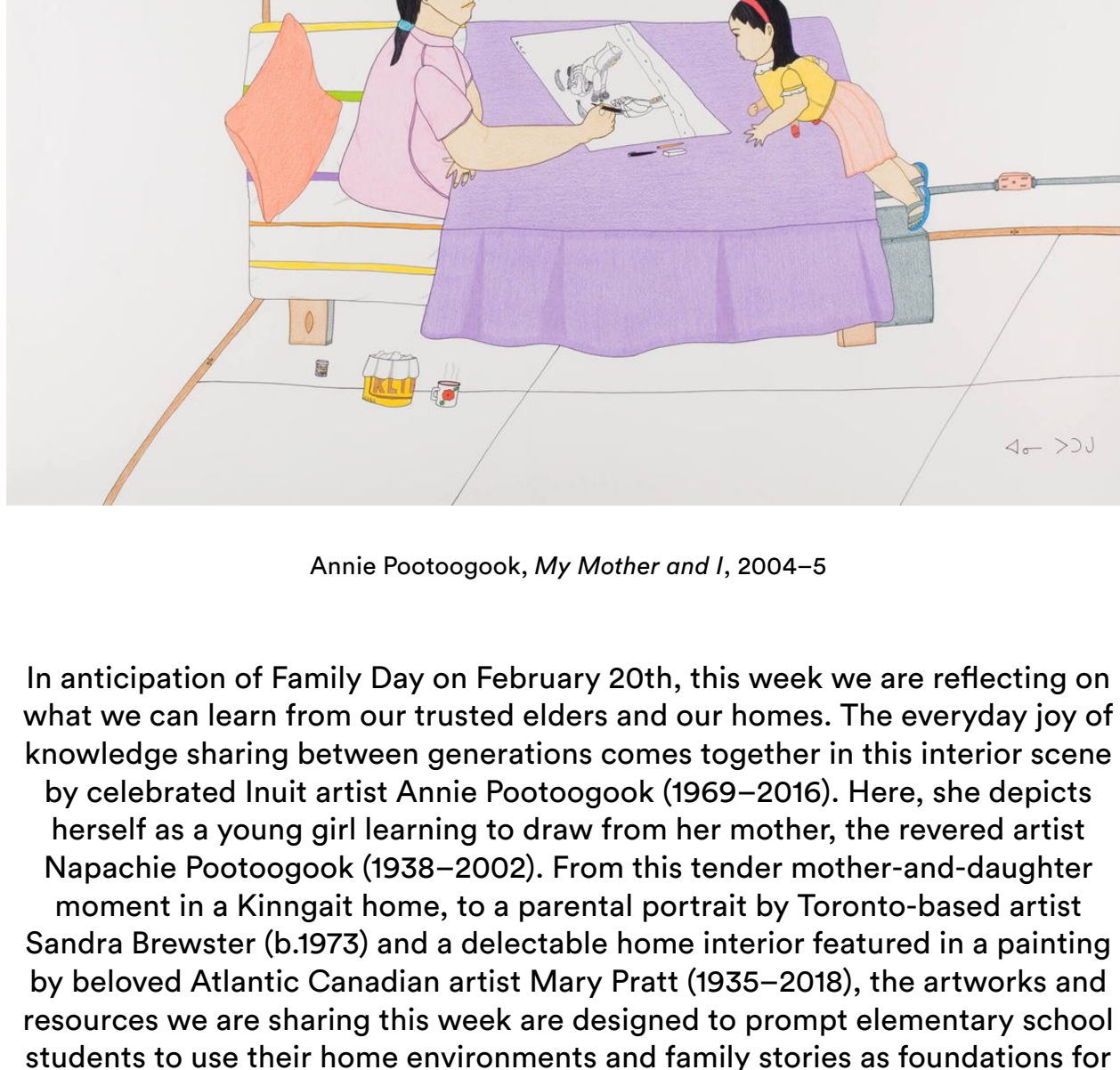


CURIOUS AND CREATIVE MINDS ART TO INSPIRE YOUNG LEARNERS

Shining a light on ACI resources
for the elementary school classroom



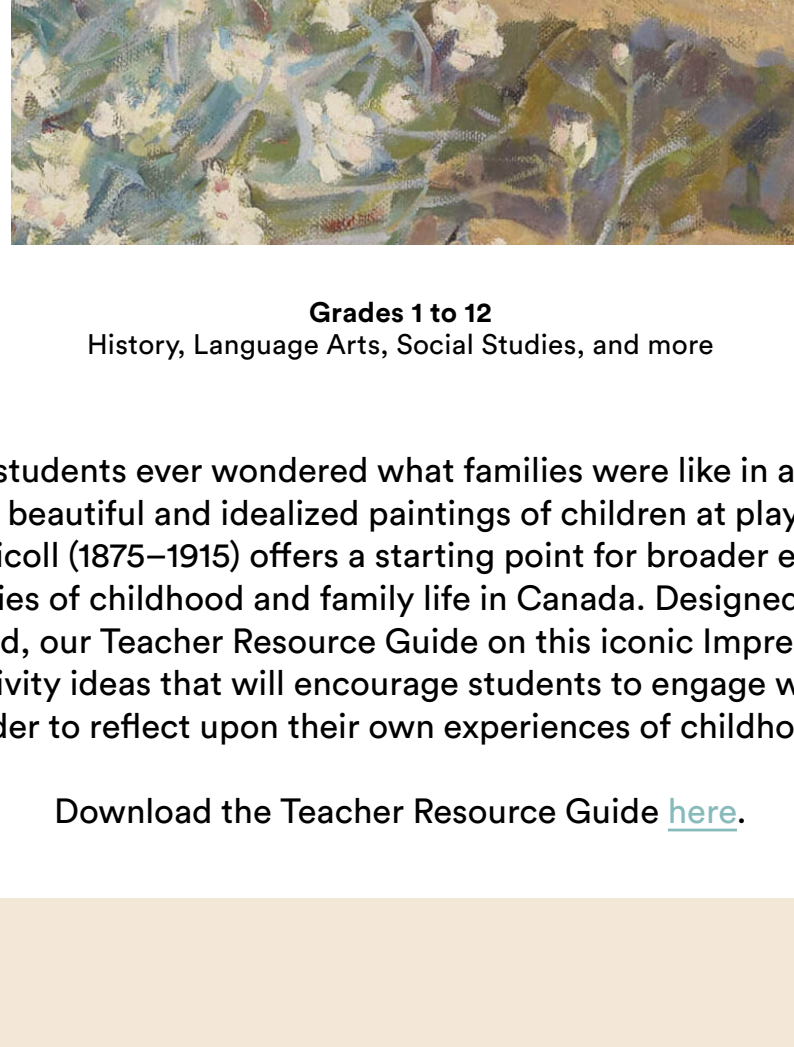
Annie Pootoogook, *My Mother and I*, 2004–5

In anticipation of Family Day on February 20th, this week we are reflecting on what we can learn from our trusted elders and our homes. The everyday joy of knowledge sharing between generations comes together in this interior scene by celebrated Inuit artist Annie Pootoogook (1969–2016). Here, she depicts herself as a young girl learning to draw from her mother, the revered artist Napachie Pootoogook (1938–2002). From this tender mother-and-daughter moment in a Kinngait home, to a parental portrait by Toronto-based artist Sandra Brewster (b.1973) and a delectable home interior featured in a painting by beloved Atlantic Canadian artist Mary Pratt (1935–2018), the artworks and resources we are sharing this week are designed to prompt elementary school students to use their home environments and family stories as foundations for learning. We hope that you enjoy this week's selection!

Learn more about Family and Intergenerational Knowledge
in a [Teacher Resource Guide about Annie Pootoogook](#)

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

Childhood Past and Present



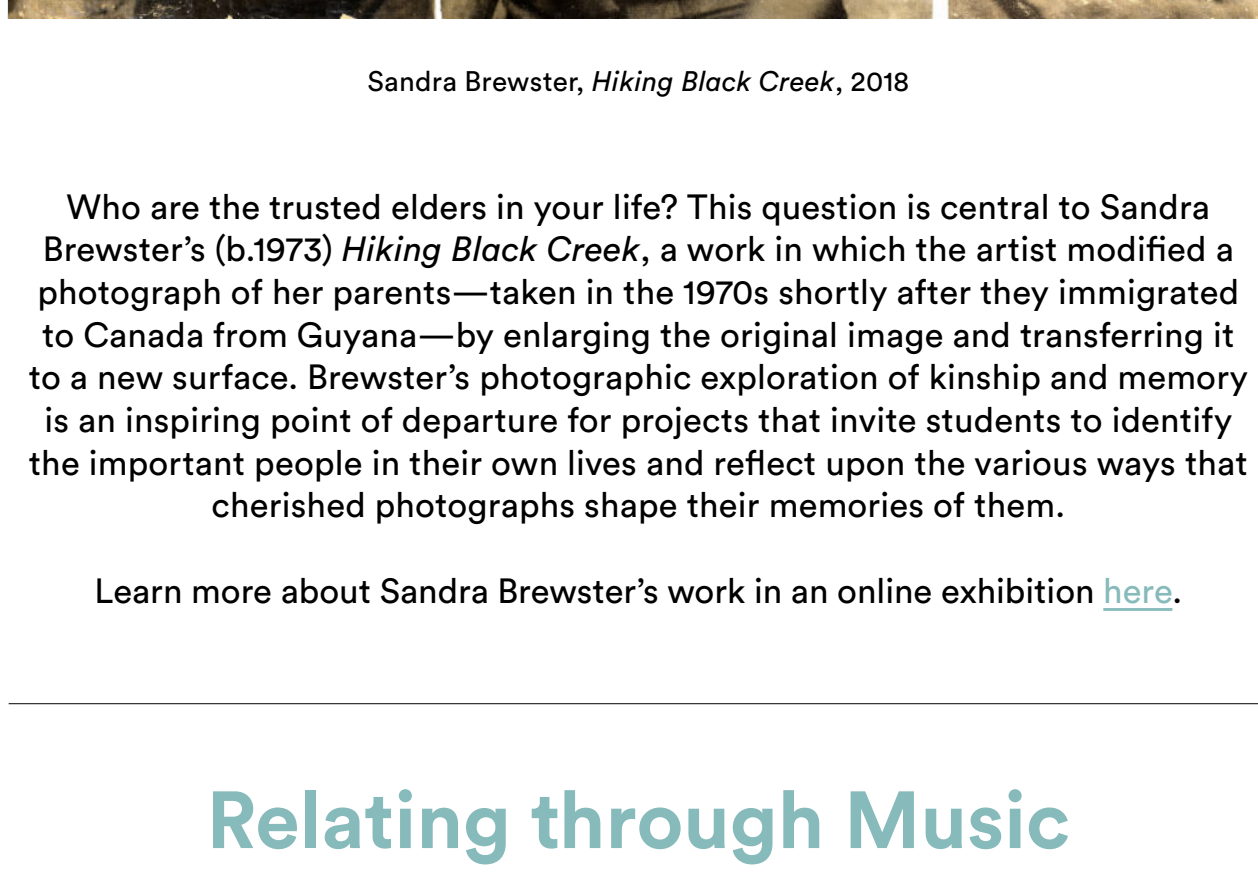
Grades 1 to 12
History, Language Arts, Social Studies, and more

Have your students ever wondered what families were like in another era? Through her beautiful and idealized paintings of children at play, the work of Helen McNicoll (1875–1915) offers a starting point for broader examinations of the realities of childhood and family life in Canada. Designed with young learners in mind, our Teacher Resource Guide on this iconic Impressionist painter provides activity ideas that will encourage students to engage with history in order to reflect upon their own experiences of childhood.

Download the Teacher Resource Guide [here](#).

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Family Photographs

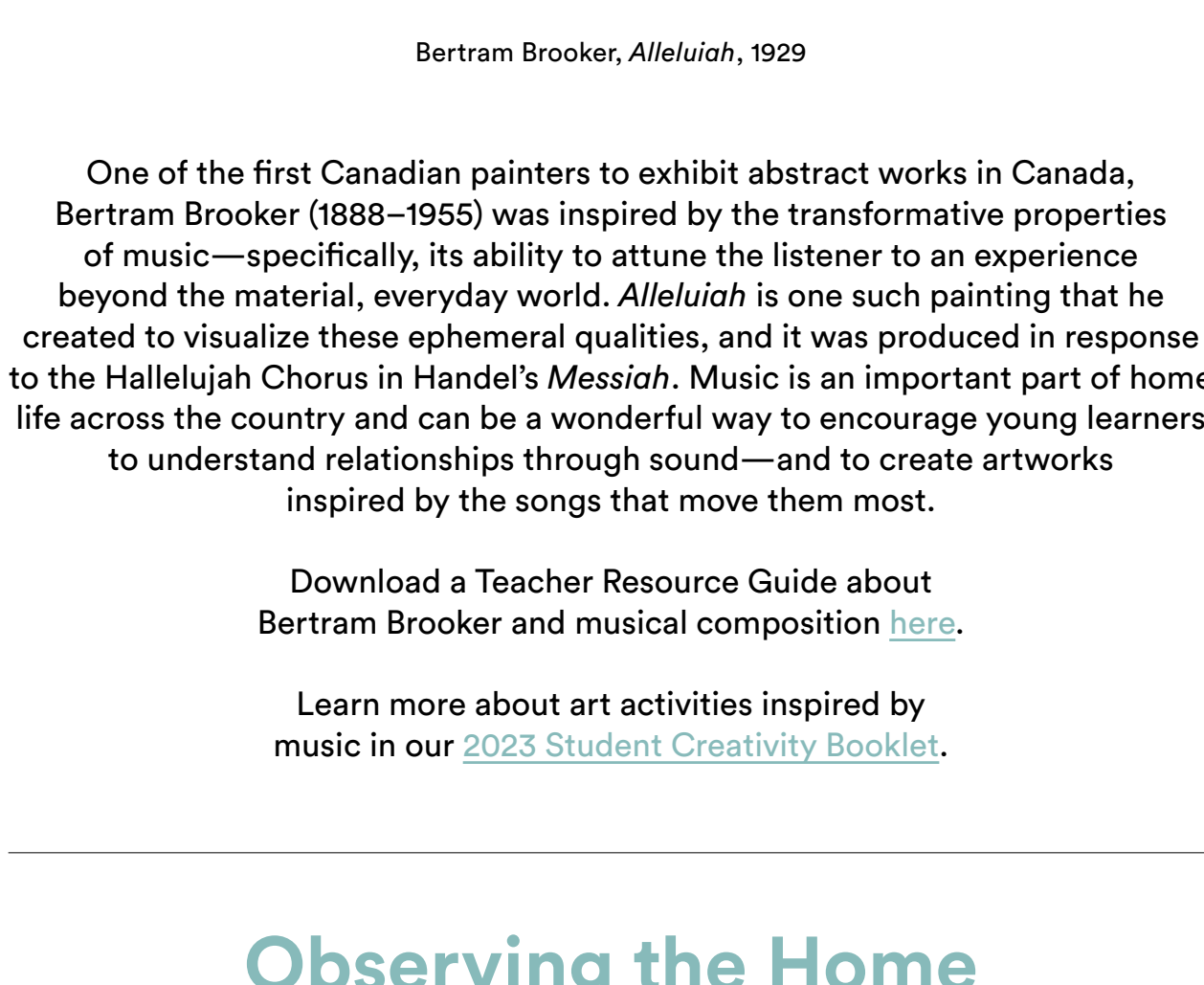


Sandra Brewster, *Hiking Black Creek*, 2018

Who are the trusted elders in your life? This question is central to Sandra Brewster's (b.1973) *Hiking Black Creek*, a work in which the artist modified a photograph of her parents—taken in the 1970s shortly after they immigrated to Canada from Guyana—by enlarging the original image and transferring it to a new surface. Brewster's photographic exploration of kinship and memory is an inspiring point of departure for projects that invite students to identify the important people in their own lives and reflect upon the various ways that cherished photographs shape their memories of them.

Learn more about Sandra Brewster's work in an online exhibition [here](#).

Relating through Music



Bertram Brooker, *Alleluiah*, 1929

One of the first Canadian painters to exhibit abstract works in Canada, Bertram Brooker (1888–1955) was inspired by the transformative properties of music—specifically, its ability to attune the listener to an experience beyond the material, everyday world. *Alleluiah* is one such painting that he created to visualize these ephemeral qualities, and it was produced in response to the Hallelujah Chorus in Handel's *Messiah*. Music is an important part of home life across the country and can be a wonderful way to encourage young learners to understand relationships through sound—and to create artworks inspired by the songs that move them most.

Download a Teacher Resource Guide about
Bertram Brooker and musical composition [here](#).

Learn more about art activities inspired by
music in our [2023 Student Creativity Booklet](#).

Observing the Home



Mary Pratt, *Ginger Ale and Tomato Sandwich No. 1*, 1999

A prominent painter of domestic life, Mary Pratt (1935–2018) was known for producing masterful still life paintings that express the properties of light. This work, *Ginger Ale and Tomato Sandwich No. 1*, is exemplary of her ability to carefully observe and represent with exacting detail the way light bounces and bends, illuminating seemingly mundane subject matter like a sandwich and glass of ginger ale. Pratt's work can inspire young learners to use scientific investigation skills to take a closer look at their own home environments. Our Teacher Resource Guide on Pratt suggests ways to incorporate Canadian art into STEM-based learning.

Download the Teacher Resource Guide [here](#).

Learn more in ACI's [Mary Pratt: Life & Work](#) by Ray Cronin.

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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, 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 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

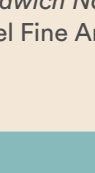
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Image Credits: [1] Annie Pootoogook, *My Mother and I*, 2004–5, coloured pencil and ink on paper, 76 x 106 cm. Collection of John and Joyce Price. Reproduced with the permission of Dorset Fine Arts. [2] Sandra Brewster, *Hiking Black Creek*, 2018, gel medium transfer, charcoal, acrylic on wood, Overall (panel 1): 335.3 x 142.2 cm; Overall (panel 2): 335.3 x 162.2 cm; Overall (panel 3): 335.3 x 101.6 cm. Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto. Purchase, with funds by exchange from a gift in memory of J.G. Althouse from Isobel Althouse Wilkinson and John Provost Wilkinson, 2020, 2020/17. © Sandra Brewster. [3] Bertram Brooker, *Alleluiah*, 1929, oil on canvas, 122.2 x 121.9 cm. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa (16812). Photo credit: National Gallery of Canada. [4] Mary Pratt, *Ginger Ale and Tomato Sandwich No. 1*, 1999, watercolour on paper, 66.7 x 43.8 cm. Private collection. Courtesy of Heffel Fine Art Auction House, Toronto. © Estate of Mary Pratt.