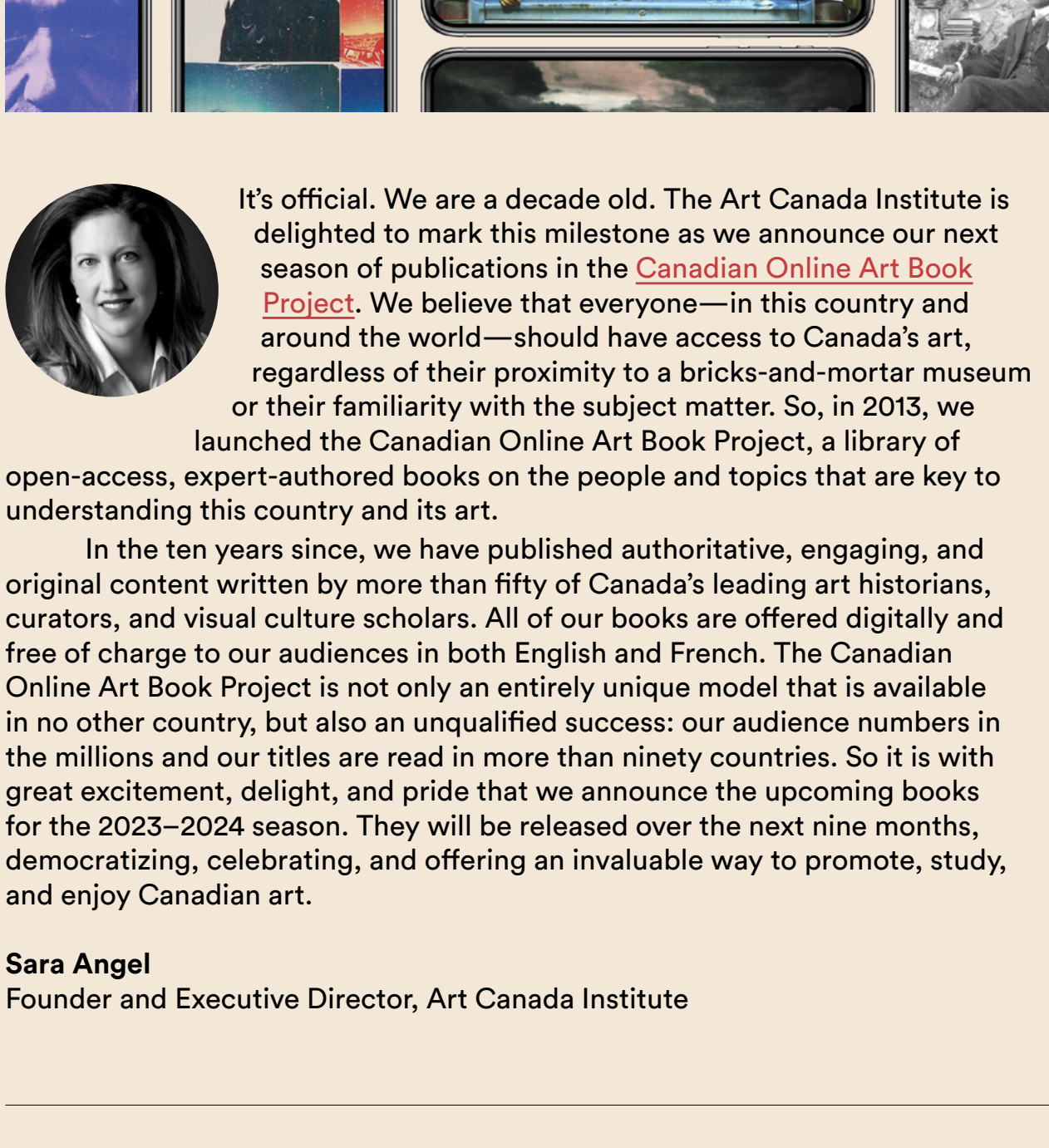


SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

SIX NEW OPEN-ACCESS BOOKS ON ART IN CANADA TITLES COMING SOON

This year the Art Canada Institute proudly marks our tenth anniversary of publishing open-access art books. Here's a preview of the six new releases slated for the months ahead.



It's official. We are a decade old. The Art Canada Institute is delighted to mark this milestone as we announce our next season of publications in the [Canadian Online Art Book Project](#). We believe that everyone—in this country and around the world—should have access to Canada's art, regardless of their proximity to a bricks-and-mortar museum or their familiarity with the subject matter. So, in 2013, we launched the Canadian Online Art Book Project, a library of open-access, expert-authored books on the people and topics that are key to understanding this country and its art.

In the ten years since, we have published authoritative, engaging, and original content written by more than fifty of Canada's leading art historians, curators, and visual culture scholars. All of our books are offered digitally and free of charge to our audiences in both English and French. The Canadian Online Art Book Project is not only an entirely unique model that is available in no other country, but also an unqualified success: our audience numbers in the millions and our titles are read in more than ninety countries. So it is with great excitement, delight, and pride that we announce the upcoming books for the 2023–2024 season. They will be released over the next nine months, democratizing, celebrating, and offering an invaluable way to promote, study, and enjoy Canadian art.

Sara Angel

Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute

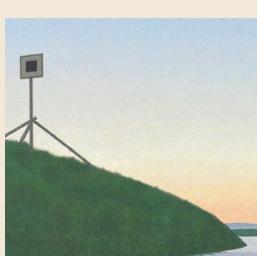
Release date: September 22, 2023

PHOTOGRAPHY IN CANADA, 1839–1989: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

by Sarah Bassnett and Sarah Parsons



Top left: Alexander Henderson, *Spring Inundation. Bank of the St. Lawrence River* (detail), 1865, Museum of Modern Art, Manhattan. Top right: C.D. Hoy, *Chinese man in Revolutionary background* (detail), 1912, P1687 Barkerville Historic Town Archives. Bottom left: Shelley Niro, *The Rebel*, 1982/89, Courtesy of Shelley Niro. Bottom right: Edward Burtynsky, *Nickel Tailings #34, Sudbury, Ontario* (detail), 1996, Cleveland Museum of Art.



Left: Sarah Bassnett



Right: Sarah Parsons

Since its introduction to Canada in 1839, photography has revolutionized the way that we understand ourselves and our country. Authors Sarah Bassnett and Sarah Parsons have written the first comprehensive book on the history of photography in Canada, taking readers into our nation's earliest studios, tracking the medium's development, and revealing the significance of cameras to every aspect of the country's life—from celebrations and community gatherings, to battles and colonial oppression and resistance. Bassnett and Parsons also examine how photography has transformed the art world. Celebrating the work of renowned creators like William Notman, Edward Burtynsky, Jeff Thomas, and Suzy Lake, as well as lesser-known photographers, this unique volume provides a fascinating new history of major developments in portrait, landscape, ethnographic, family, and street photography, as well as in photojournalism, art photography, and advertising. Above all, *Photography in Canada, 1839–1989: An Illustrated History* reminds us of the power of the camera and its impact on the history of Canadian visual culture.

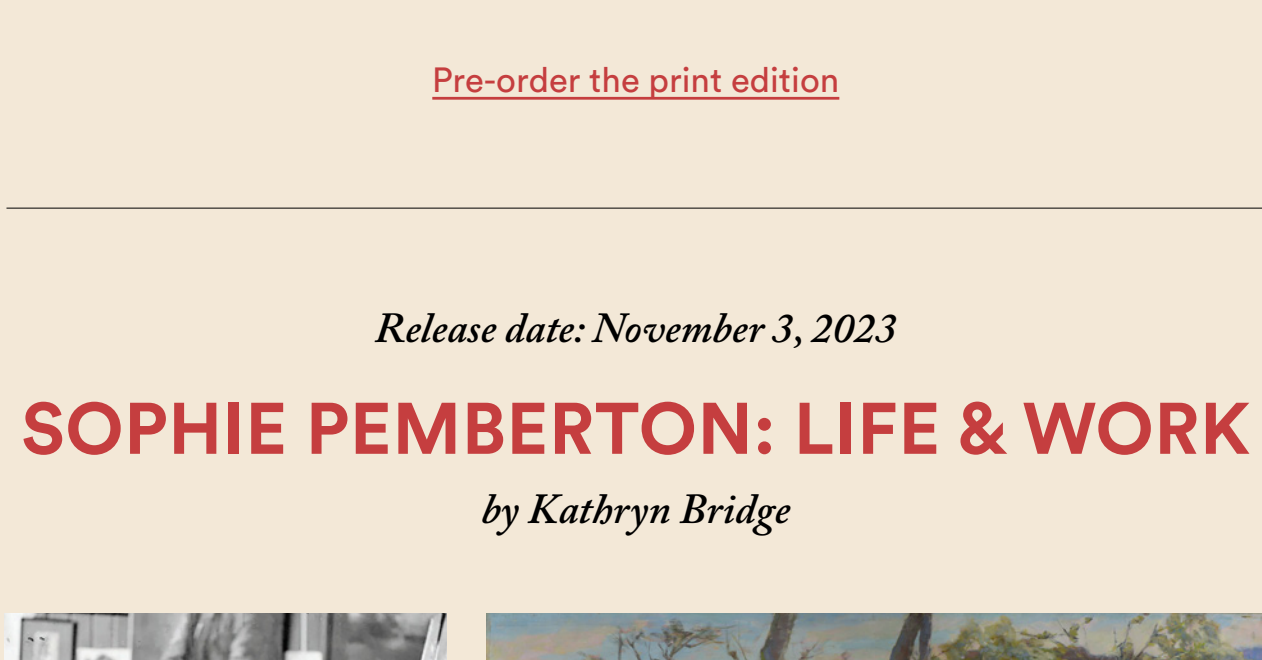
[Read more](#)

[Pre-order the print edition](#)

Release date: October 13, 2023

HALIFAX ART & ARTISTS: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

by Ray Cronin



Top left: Alex Colville, *On a River* (detail), 1996, private collection. Top right: Maud Lewis, *Lighthouse and Ferry at Cape Forchu, Yarmouth County* (detail), 1912, P1687 Barkerville Historic Town Archives. Bottom left: Jordan Bennett, *Katu' elmtojiik (They want to go home)*, 2019, installed at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, 2019. Installation detail of Artist unknown, *Mi'kmaq, Nova Scotia, Chair Seat Panel*, c.19th century. Bottom right: John O'Brien, *The ARAB, Brigantine*, and the *MILO, Brig, off Halifax Harbour* (detail), 1856, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax.



Ray Cronin

Halifax, one of the oldest settlements in Canada, is both steeped in Maritime history and the home of one of the country's most radical contemporary art scenes. Halifax, also known as K'ijipuktuk, or "Great Harbour," in the Mi'kmaq language, has long been a base for visual artists working across diverse media and genres. As a place transformed by both residents and visitors, the city has also welcomed pivotal leaders in Canadian art, from the war artists who came to record the country's defenses during global conflicts, to the visionary professors who turned the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design into a world-renowned centre of Conceptual art. In *Halifax Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*, author Ray Cronin provides an authoritative account of the city's outstanding contributions to the nation and reveals the unique synergy between creators and the place they inhabit.

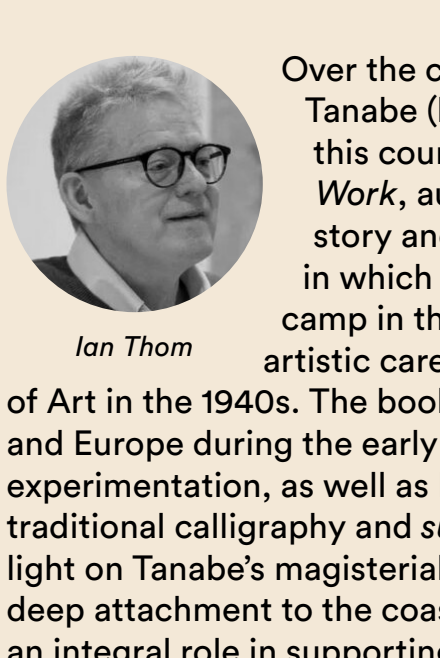
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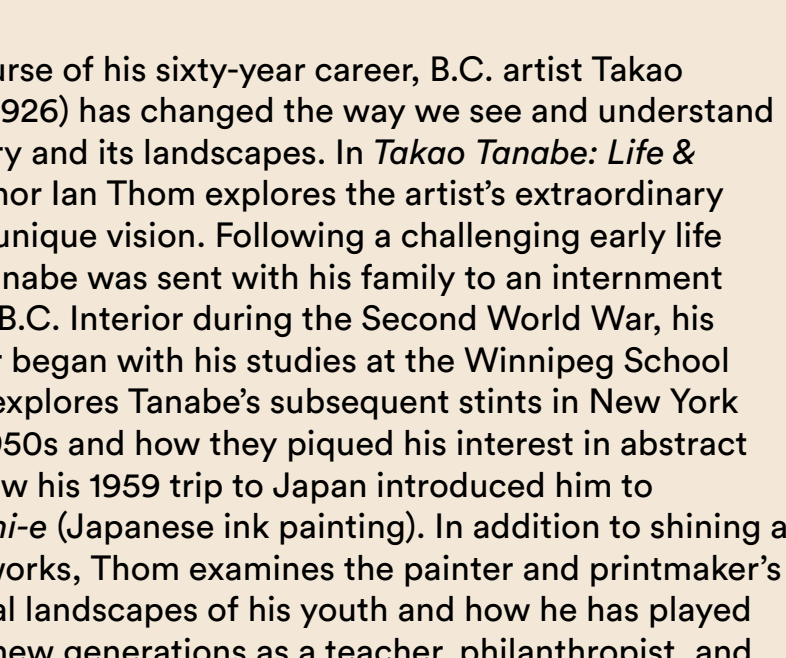
Release date: November 3, 2023

SOPHIE PEMBERTON: LIFE & WORK

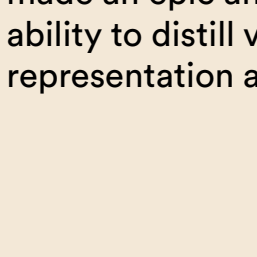
by Kathryn Bridge



Sophie Pemberton in her Victoria studio, 1904.



Sophie Pemberton, *Spring*, 1902, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.



Kathryn Bridge

At the turn of the twentieth century, propelled by extraordinary ambition and talent, a degree, B.C.-born Sophie Pemberton (1869–1959) attained a vector of international success enjoyed by few other women artists of her generation, earning international acclaim for her realist portraits and landscape paintings. While studying in Paris in 1899, she won the prestigious Prix Julian for her portraiture, and she went on to show at the Salon, where she impressed critics with her modern, Impressionist-influenced canvases. In *Sophie Pemberton: Life & Work*, author Kathryn Bridge spans a half century, offering a comprehensive account of this exceptional artist's oeuvre. Published to coincide with a [major retrospective of Pemberton's art](#), the book explores how the driven and tenacious painter sketched landscapes *en plein air* in Italy, exhibited her work throughout England, and cemented her reputation in Paris—all while weathering significant ailments and family tragedies.

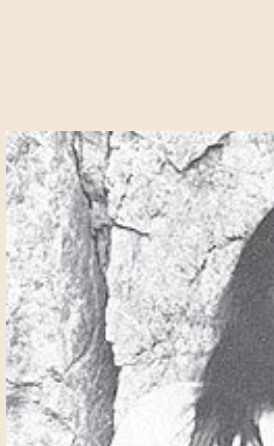
[Read more](#)

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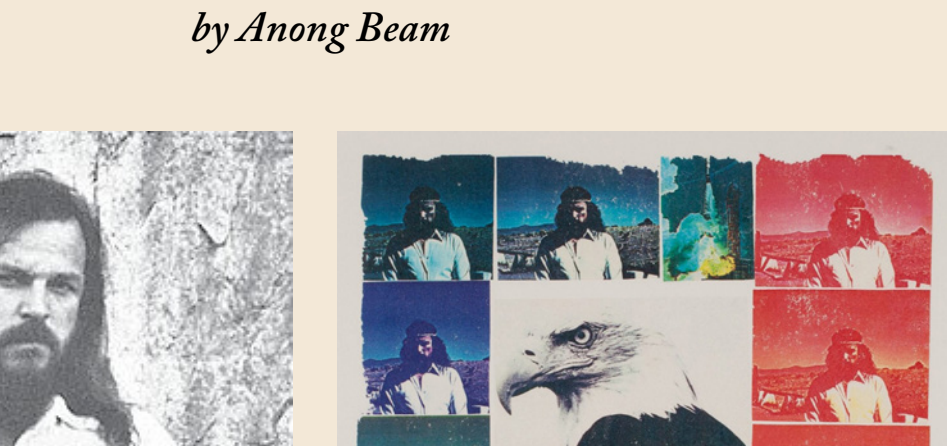
Release date: December 8, 2023

TAKAO TANABE: LIFE & WORK

by Ian Thom



Takao Tanabe in his Vancouver Island studio, 1987, photograph by Eliza Massey.



Takao Tanabe, *Malacca Strait: Dawn*, 2004, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria.



Ian Thom

Over the course of his sixty-year career, B.C. artist Takao Tanabe (b.1926) has changed the way we see and understand this country and its landscapes. In *Takao Tanabe: Life & Work*, author Ian Thom explores the artist's extraordinary story and unique vision. Following a challenging early life in which Tanabe was sent with his family to an internment camp in the B.C. Interior during the Second World War, his artistic career began with his studies at the Winnipeg School of Art in the 1940s. The book explores Tanabe's subsequent stints in New York and Europe during the early 1950s and how they piqued his interest in abstract experimentation, as well as how his move to Japan introduced him to traditional calligraphy and *sumi-e* (Japanese ink painting). In addition to shining a light on Tanabe's magisterial works, Thom examines the painter and printmaker's deep attachment to the coastal landscapes of his youth and how he has played an integral role in supporting new generations as a teacher, philanthropist, and advocate. The recipient of the Audain Prize for the Visual Arts, the Order of Canada, and a Governor General's Award for Visual and Media Arts, Tanabe has made an epic and indelible impact on the country's cultural landscape for his ability to distill vast expanses of land into evocative images that hover between representation and abstraction.

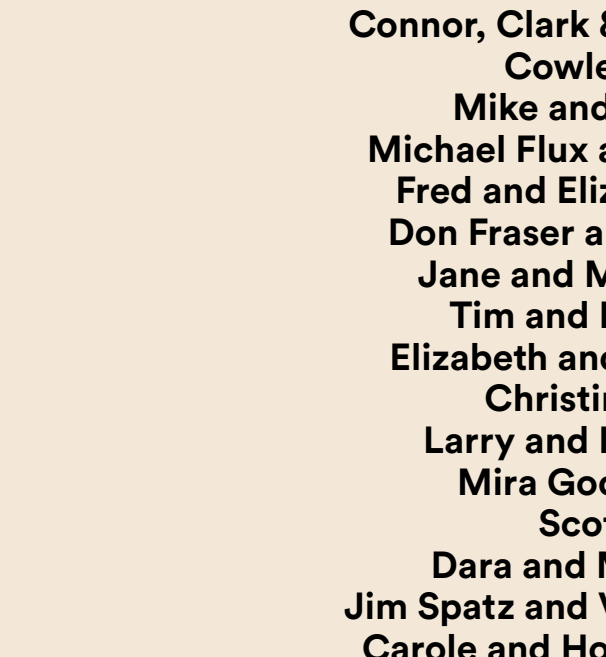
[Read more](#)

[Pre-order the print edition](#)

Release date: March 8, 2024

MARGARET WATKINS: LIFE & WORK

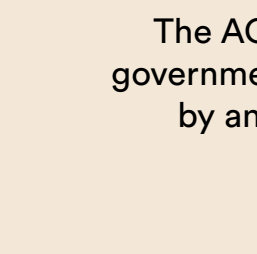
by Mary O'Connor



Margaret Watkins, *Self-Portrait*, 1923, Joseph Mulholland Collection, Glasgow.



Margaret Watkins, *Untitled [Study for advertisement for Cutex nail polish]*, 1924, Joseph Mulholland Collection, Glasgow.



Mary O'Connor

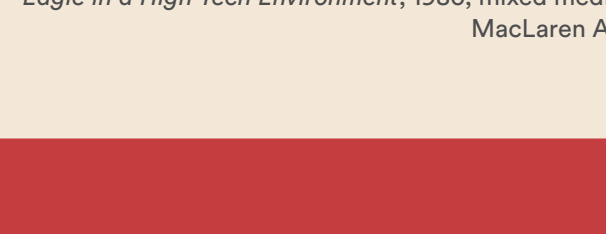
Hamilton, Ontario-born Margaret Watkins (1884–1969) was a pioneering rebel who changed early twentieth-century photography. But until recently, the details of her life and groundbreaking practice were all but lost to history. As author Mary O'Connor reveals in *Margaret Watkins: Life & Work*, the artist's remarkable career earned her accolades and influenced a generation of North American photographers. In New York City, Watkins studied and taught with the formidable founder of the Photo-Secession movement, Clarence H. White (1871–1925), before becoming one of the first women to be hired as a photographer by a major advertising agency—as well as a widely published and exhibited artist. But in 1928, at the height of her career, she moved to Scotland to care for ailing relatives and her practice ground to a halt. In *Margaret Watkins: Life & Work*, Mary O'Connor reflects on the tremendous talent of a woman who fought against the challenges that so many in her generation faced of, as she put it, being "domesticated to death"—by forging a singular career in the history of photography, which is for the first time being made available online for the world to know.

[Read more](#)

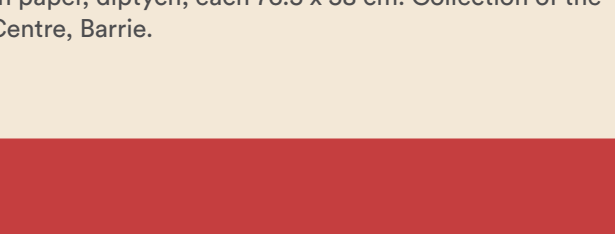
Release date: May 24, 2024

CARL BEAM: LIFE & WORK

by Anong Beam



Carl Beam, 1984, photograph by Ann Beam.



Carl Beam, *Artist and Eagle in a High Tech Environment*, 1980, MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie.

The National Gallery of Canada's first acquisition of a work by an Indigenous contemporary artist was in 1986, when they purchased *The North American Iceberg*, 1985, by the Ojibwe visionary Carl Beam (1934–2005). The gallery's purchase of this tour de force opened doors for the generations of Indigenous artists that followed. In *Carl Beam: Life & Work*, his daughter, author Anong Beam, presents a profound portrait of her father's life and offers up a chronicle of his extraordinary multimedia practice. The book explores how, in the 1970s, Beam boldly presented a technique and vision that countered the highly stylized, narrative-based paintings by Norval Morrisseau (1932–2007) that dominated conversations at the time about what constituted Eastern Woodlands art. Inspired by American artists such as Robert Rauschenberg, Jasper Johns, and Andy Warhol, Beam responded to their innovative mixed-media techniques while forging a new path for art-making that investigated the ties between Western and Indigenous cultures. Although Beam's life was cut short in 2005 at the age of sixty-two, he had gained a deserved reputation as one of the most important artists in Canadian history, as well as an activist against colonial violence and an advocate for the resilience of First Nations peoples.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

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