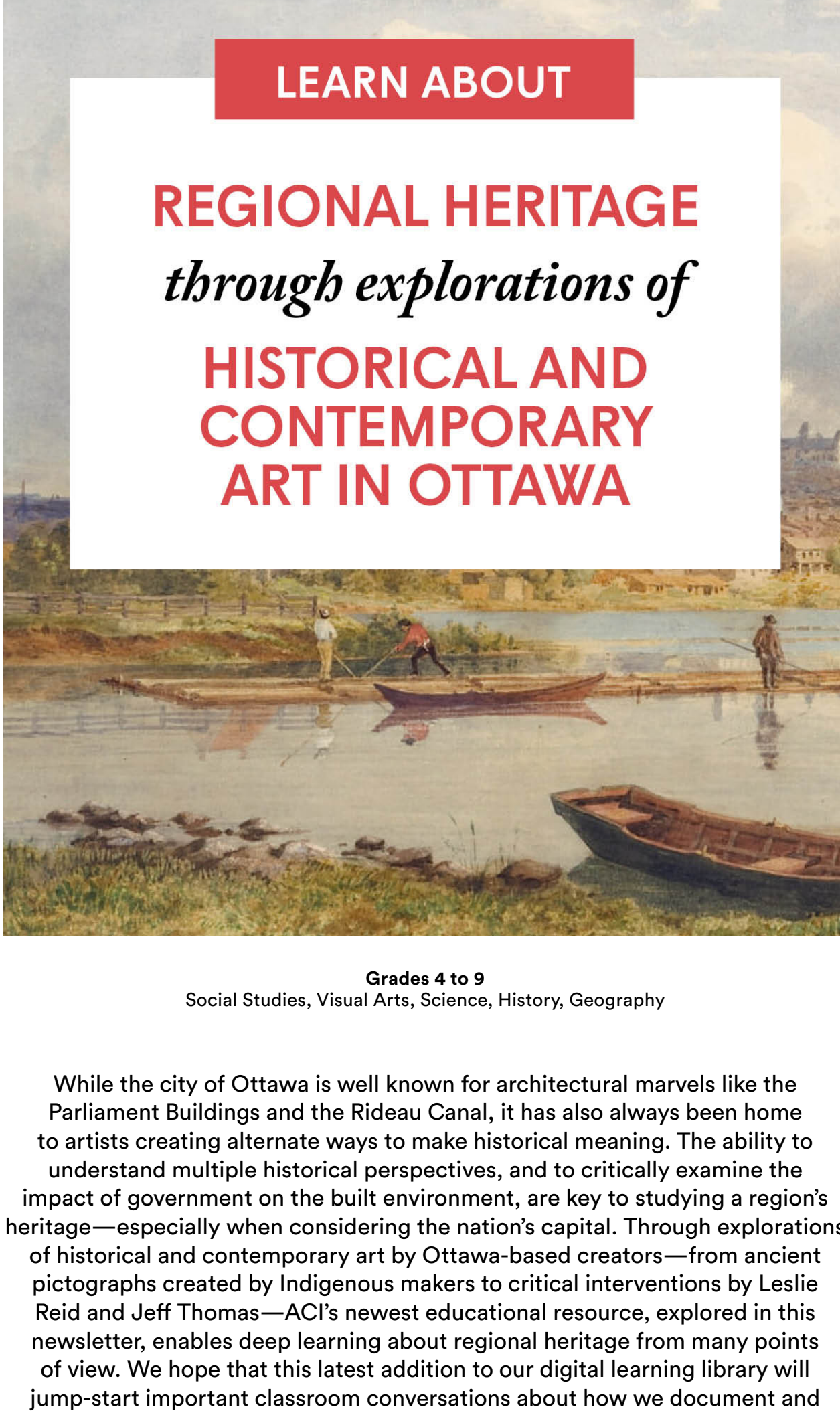


## CREATIVITY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL UNCOVERING OTTAWA'S HERITAGE

Examine regional history and its integration within the land and the built environment through ACI's newest educational resource exploring art by Ottawa-based creators



### LEARN ABOUT

## REGIONAL HERITAGE *through explorations of* HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY ART IN OTTAWA

Grades 4 to 9  
Social Studies, Visual Arts, Science, History, Geography

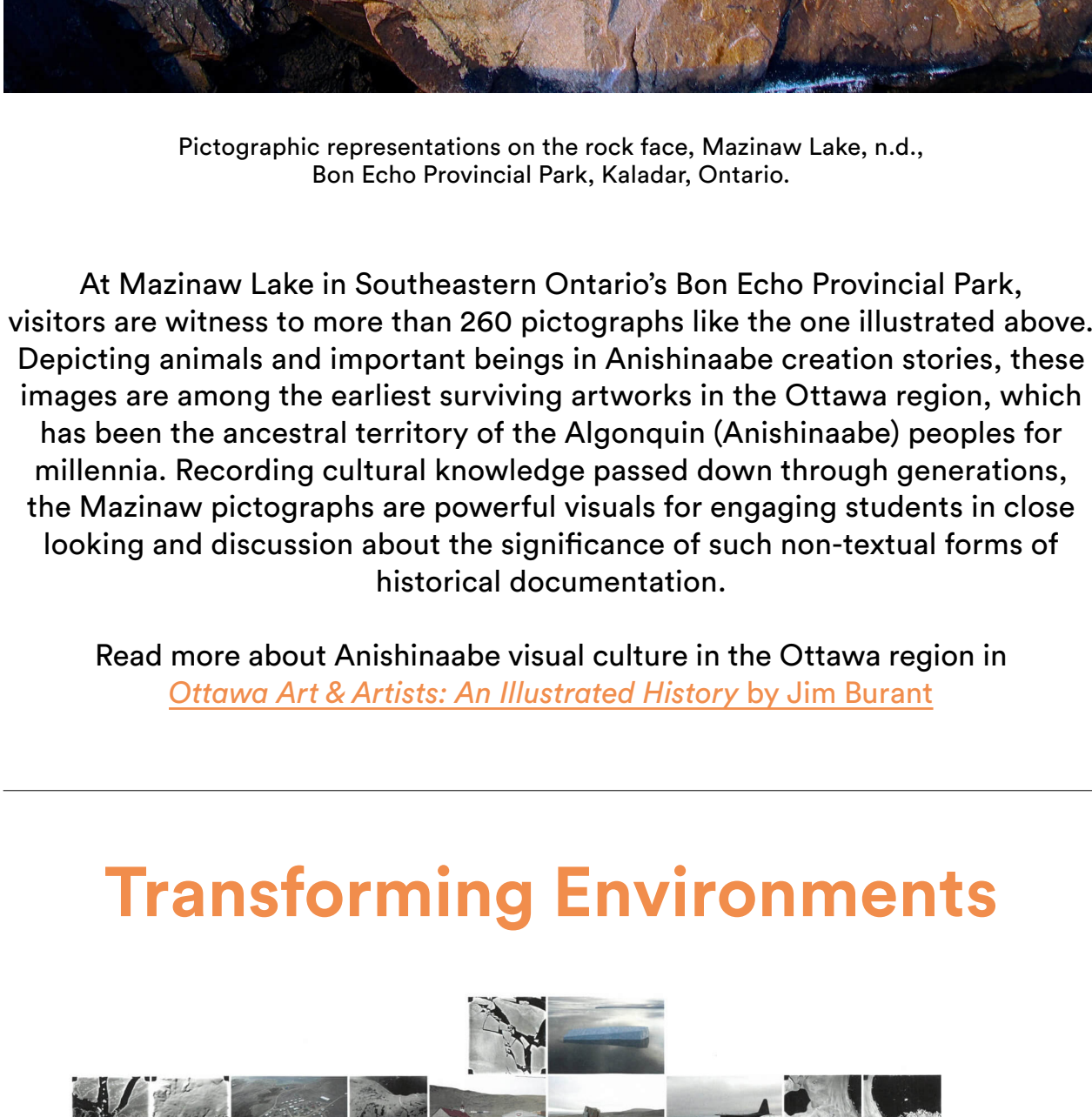
While the city of Ottawa is well known for architectural marvels like the Parliament Buildings and the Rideau Canal, it has also always been home to artists creating alternate ways to make historical meaning. The ability to understand multiple historical perspectives, and to critically examine the impact of government on the built environment, are key to studying a region's heritage—especially when considering the nation's capital. Through explorations of historical and contemporary art by Ottawa-based creators—from ancient pictographs created by Indigenous makers to critical interventions by Leslie Reid and Jeff Thomas—ACI's newest educational resource, explored in this newsletter, enables deep learning about regional heritage from many points of view. We hope that this latest addition to our digital learning library will jump-start important classroom conversations about how we document and map the past, and how to rethink methods of memorialization.

[Download our newest Teacher Resource Guide](#)

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

### AVENUES TO EXPLORE

## Visual Stories



Pictographic representations on the rock face, Mazinaw Lake, n.d., Bon Echo Provincial Park, Kalamarg, Ontario.

At Mazinaw Lake in Southeastern Ontario's Bon Echo Provincial Park, visitors are witness to more than 260 pictographs like the one illustrated above. Depicting animals and important beings in Anishinaabe creation stories, these images are among the earliest surviving artworks in the Ottawa region, which has been the ancestral territory of the Algonquin (Anishinaabe) peoples for millennia. Recording cultural knowledge passed down through generations, the Mazinaw pictographs are powerful visuals for engaging students in close looking and discussion about the significance of such non-textual forms of historical documentation.

Read more about Anishinaabe visual culture in the Ottawa region in [Ottawa Art & Artists: An Illustrated History by Jim Burant](#)

## Transforming Environments



Leslie Reid, *Flight Line—Erasure*, 2017.

Mapping is an interpretive and largely selective process, the results of which often reflect the values of the maker. In her installation *Flight Line—Erasure*, artist Leslie Reid (b.1947) used historical and contemporary photographs of sites in Ottawa (like the Parliament Buildings and the former Rockcliffe Air Station) and landscapes in Nunavut and Nunavut to connect the development of the city of Ottawa with mid-twentieth century efforts to expand government presence in the Canadian North. Reid's photocollage serves as a point of departure for students to practice their own forms of mapping and observing changes to the built environment over time.

Learn more about Leslie Reid in [Ottawa Art & Artists: An Illustrated History by Jim Burant](#)

## Sites of Significance



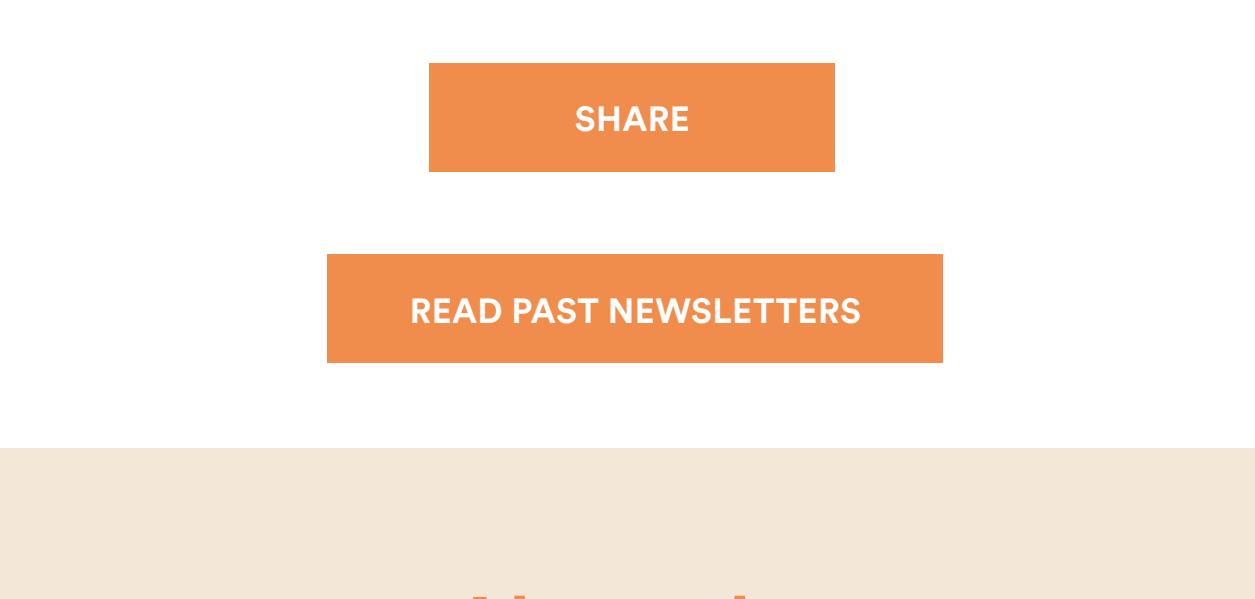
Jeff Thomas, *Peace Chief at Parliament Hill and Peace Tower*, Ottawa, 2003.

In recent years, debates about the need for colonial monuments have exploded in mainstream consciousness, raising questions about how to commemorate histories that have been forgotten or destroyed. Ottawa-based artist, curator, and scholar Jeff Thomas (b.1956) has stimulated conversation about the absence of Indigenous spaces through his photographic works—like the one above, which probes the placement of the Parliament Buildings on unceded Algonquin territory. Thomas's photographic works offer a compelling lens through which to propose additional counter-monuments that uplift the histories and perspectives of those marginalized and/or excluded from dominant narratives on regional heritage.

Learn more about Jeff Thomas in [Ottawa Art & Artists: An Illustrated History by Jim Burant](#)

### SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

## Submit Student Work



Are you facilitating art projects inspired by the works of artists based in Ottawa or in your own community? We encourage you to submit student work to the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge. Submissions are now open for the 2023-2024 edition of ACI's flagship educational initiative. Students from Grade 7 through Grade 12 are eligible to submit original works of art in any medium. The deadline to submit during the fall semester is December 15, 2023.

Learn more about how to submit your students' work to the [Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge](#)

For project ideas, consult our free-to-download [Student Creativity Booklet](#)

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](http://aci-iac.ca)

## Thank You to Our Benefactors

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Image Credits: [1] Pictographic representations on the rock face, Mazinaw Lake, n.d., photographer unknown. Bon Echo Provincial Park, Kalamarg, Ontario Parks. Courtesy of Ontario Parks. [2] Leslie Reid, *Flight Line—Erasure*, 2017, photo mosaic printed on aluminum, 74 images, 21 x 3 m. Collection of the Ottawa Art Gallery, special commission for the Ottawa Art Gallery, 2017 (2018.04.08). Courtesy of the artist and the Ottawa Art Gallery. © Leslie Reid. Photo credit: Justin Wonnacott. [3] Jeff Thomas, *Peace Chief at Parliament Hill and Peace Tower*, Ottawa, 2003. Courtesy of the artist. © Jeff Thomas.