

## CELEBRATING NEW ARTISTIC TALENT ACI'S ANNUAL STUDENT CHALLENGE

Submissions are now open for the fourth edition of the Art Canada Institute's annual showcase of remarkable student work.



The ACI Education Program is delighted to launch the fourth edition of the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge, our annual celebration of young artistic talent from across the country. This initiative invites young makers from Grade 7 to Grade 12 to create and submit original works—in any medium—inspired by Canada's greatest historical and contemporary artists. Back by popular request, this year we are opening an additional submission window so that teachers can facilitate student participation in the fall term or the winter term.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's works will be juried by an esteemed panel of judges, including award-winning contemporary artists **Kent Monkman**, **Edward Burtynsky**, and **Karen Tam**.

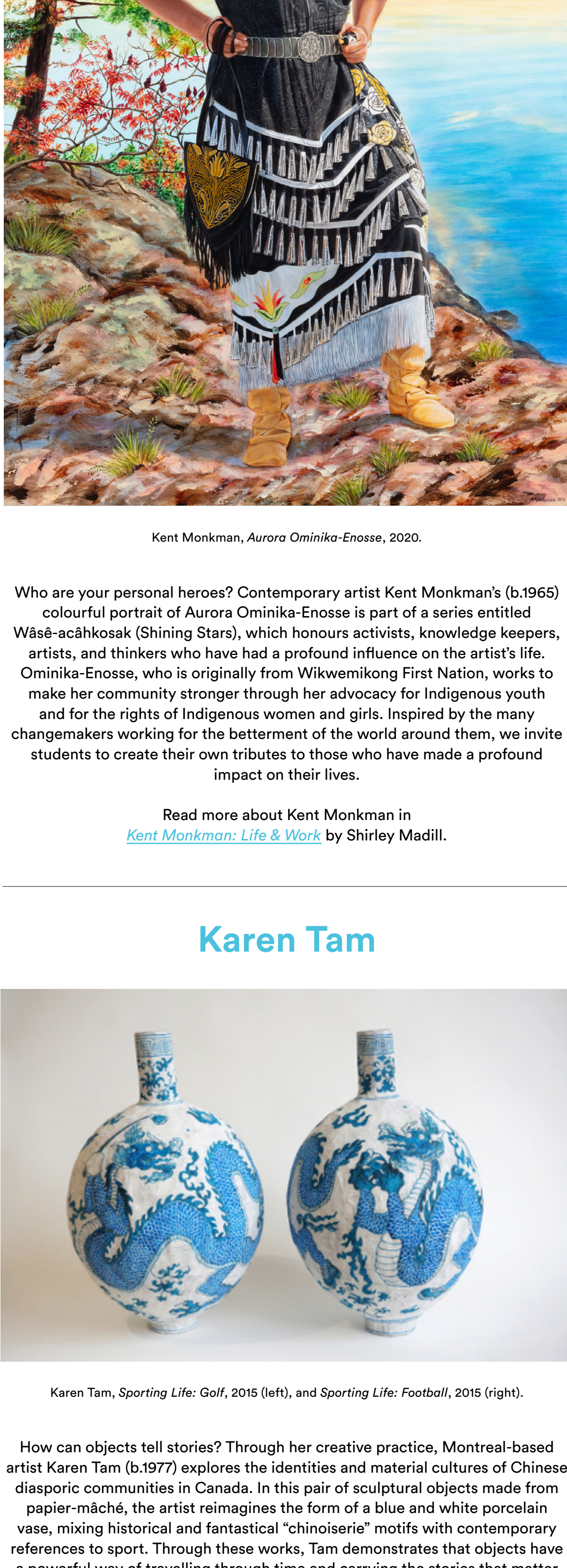
In this newsletter, we are sharing excerpts from our new Student Creativity Booklet—a free, downloadable resource for teachers looking to get students involved in this year's challenge. From community leaders to eco-responsibility, and from photography to papier-mâché, this year's suggested creative prompts represent the breadth and depth of what Canadian art history has to offer. We continue to be inspired by the talents, insights, and visionary rigour of young Canadians across the nation, and we cannot wait to discover what your students create this year.

Visit our [Student Challenge Webpage](#) to download our new Student Creativity Booklet, Rules & Regulations, and Submission Form.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

### ARTISTS TO INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS' CREATIVITY

## Kent Monkman

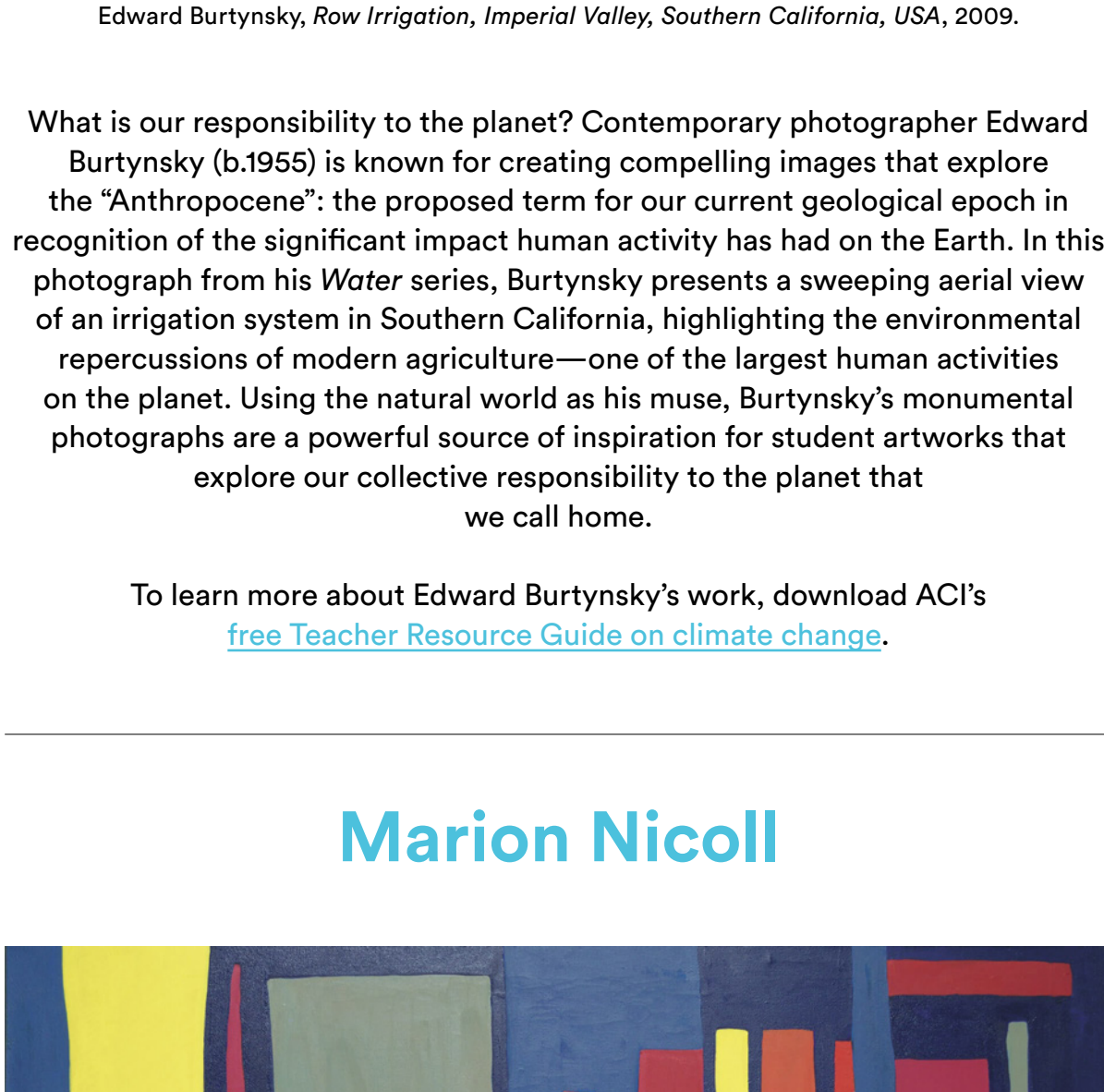


Kent Monkman, *Aurora Ominika-Enosse*, 2020.

Who are your personal heroes? Contemporary artist Kent Monkman's (b.1965) colourful portrait of Aurora Ominika-Enosse is part of a series entitled *Wásé-acâhkosak* (Shining Stars), which honours activists, knowledge keepers, artists, and thinkers who have had a profound influence on the artist's life. Ominika-Enosse, who is originally from Wikwemikong First Nation, works to make her community stronger through her advocacy for Indigenous youth and for the rights of Indigenous women and girls. Inspired by the many changemakers working for the betterment of the world around them, we invite students to create their own tributes to those who have made a profound impact on their lives.

Read more about Kent Monkman in [Kent Monkman: Life & Work](#) by Shirley Madill.

## Karen Tam

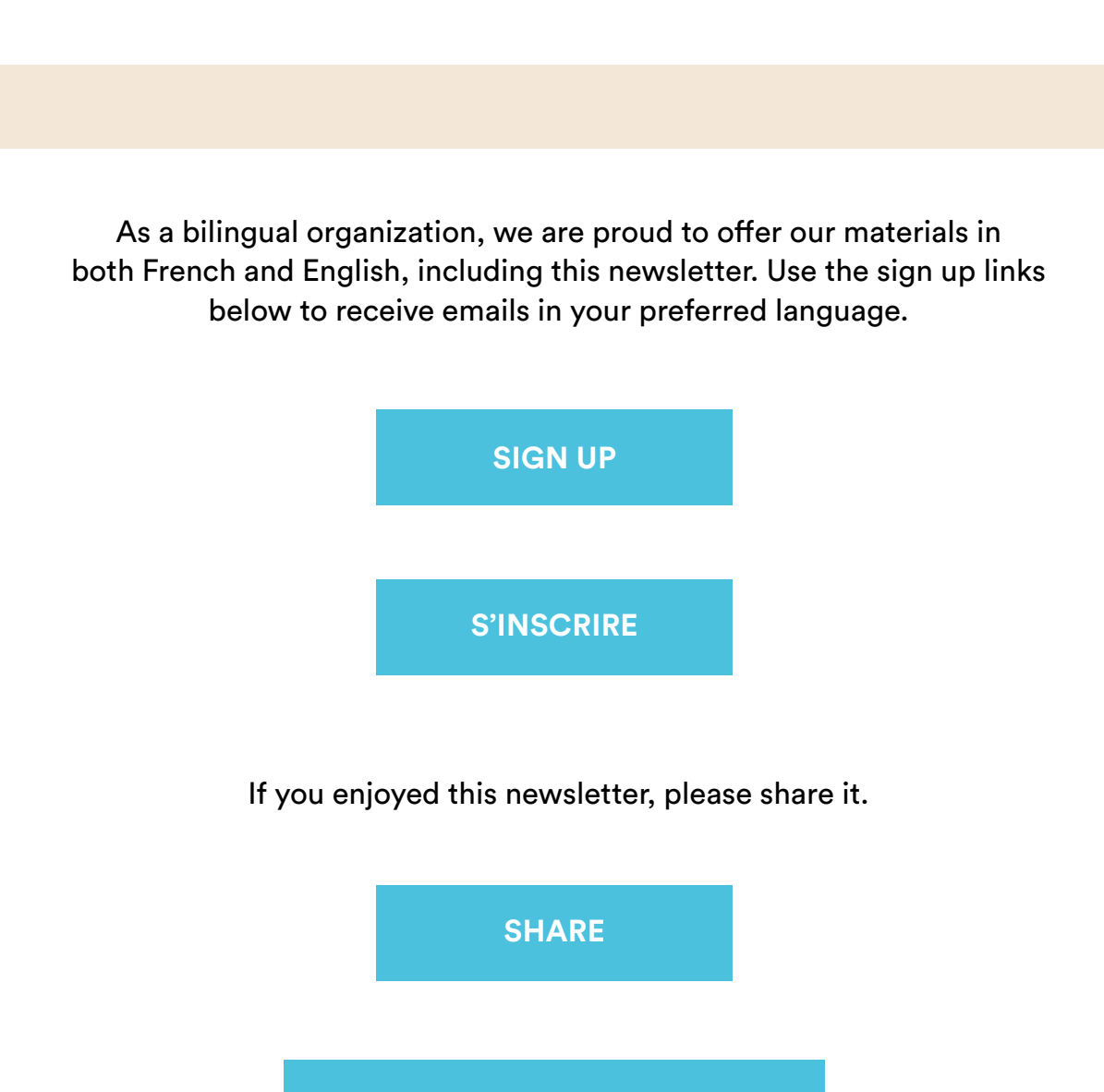


Karen Tam, *Sporting Life: Golf*, 2015 (left), and *Sporting Life: Football*, 2015 (right).

How can objects tell stories? Through her creative practice, Montreal-based artist Karen Tam (b.1977) explores the identities and material cultures of Chinese diasporic communities in Canada. In this pair of sculptural objects made from papier-mâché, the artist reimagines the form of a blue and white porcelain vase, mixing historical and fantastical "chinoiserie" motifs with contemporary references to sport. Through these works, Tam demonstrates that objects have a powerful way of travelling through time and carrying the stories that matter with them. For this activity, we invite students to make objects that have a story to tell, exploring narratives about their own families, histories, or traditions in a three-dimensional creation.

Discover more works by Karen Tam in ACI's [online exhibition](#).

## Edward Burtynsky

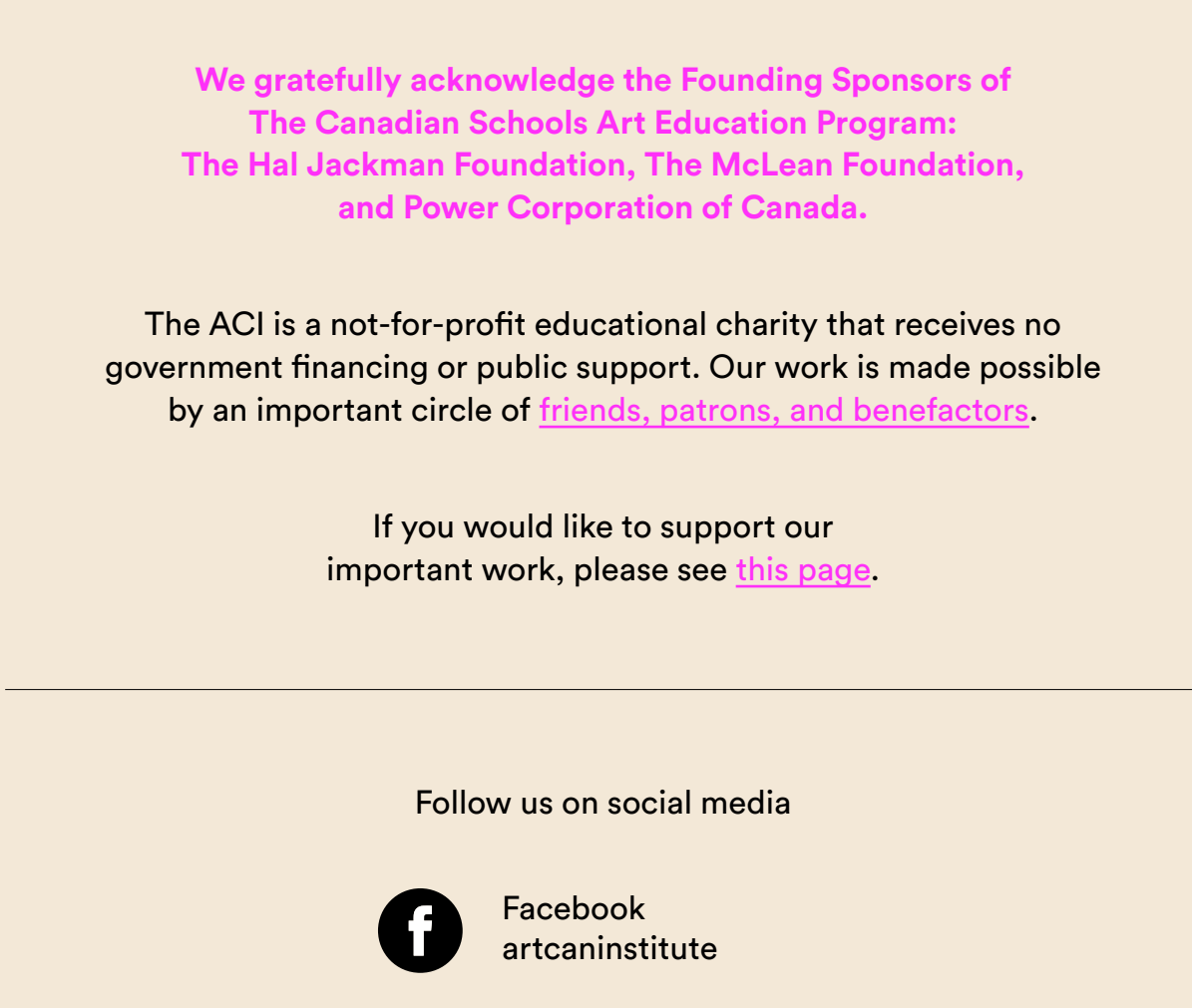


Edward Burtynsky, *Row Irrigation, Imperial Valley, Southern California, USA*, 2009.

What is our responsibility to the planet? Contemporary photographer Edward Burtynsky (b.1955) is known for creating compelling images that explore the "Anthropocene": the proposed term for our current geological epoch in recognition of the significant impact human activity has had on the Earth. In this photograph from his *Water* series, Burtynsky presents a sweeping aerial view of an irrigation system in Southern California, highlighting the environmental repercussions of modern agriculture—one of the largest human activities on the planet. Using the natural world as his muse, Burtynsky's monumental photographs are a powerful source of inspiration for student artworks that explore our collective responsibility to the planet that we call home.

To learn more about Edward Burtynsky's work, download ACI's [free Teacher Resource Guide on climate change](#).

## Marion Nicoll



Marion Nicoll, *Alberta IV: Winter Morning*, 1961.

How can we evoke the four seasons? Alberta modernist Marion Nicoll (1909–1985) explores the symbolic and emotional effects of colour in this striking abstract painting created in response to the topography, climate, and vegetation of her home province. Rather than depicting the landscape as it appears, Nicoll uses alternating fields of warm and cool colours to recall the *feeling* of a winter morning in the Prairies. Canadian artists like Nicoll have long experimented with the elements of art—using line, shape, form, space, colour, value, and texture to inspire viewers to see their surroundings in new and exciting ways. Her radical development of abstract art is the perfect springboard for student projects that explore different seasonal sensations through abstract form.

Read more about Marion Nicoll in [Marion Nicoll: Life & Work](#) by Catharine Mastin.

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, 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](#)

## Thank You to Our Benefactors

We gratefully acknowledge the Founding Sponsors of The Canadian Schools Art Education Program: The Hal Jackman Foundation, The McLean Foundation, and Power Corporation of Canada.

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Image Credits: [1] Kent Monkman, *Aurora Ominika-Enosse*, 2020, acrylic on canvas, 152.4 x 101.6 cm. Courtesy of the artist. [2] Karen Tam, *Sporting Life: Football*, 2015, and *Sporting Life: Golf*, 2015, papier-mâché (Chinese newspaper, wallpaper paste w/ fungicide and moisture protection), pigmented India ink/encres de Chine, gesso, UV archival varnish, 40 x 25 x 25 cm each. Courtesy of the artist. Photo credit: Karen Tam. [3] Edward Burtynsky, *Row Irrigation, Imperial Valley, Southern California, USA*, 2009. Courtesy of Nicholas Metivier Gallery, Toronto. Photo © Edward Burtynsky. [4] Marion Nicoll, *Alberta IV: Winter Morning*, 1961, oil on canvas, 99 x 116.8 cm. Private collection, Calgary.