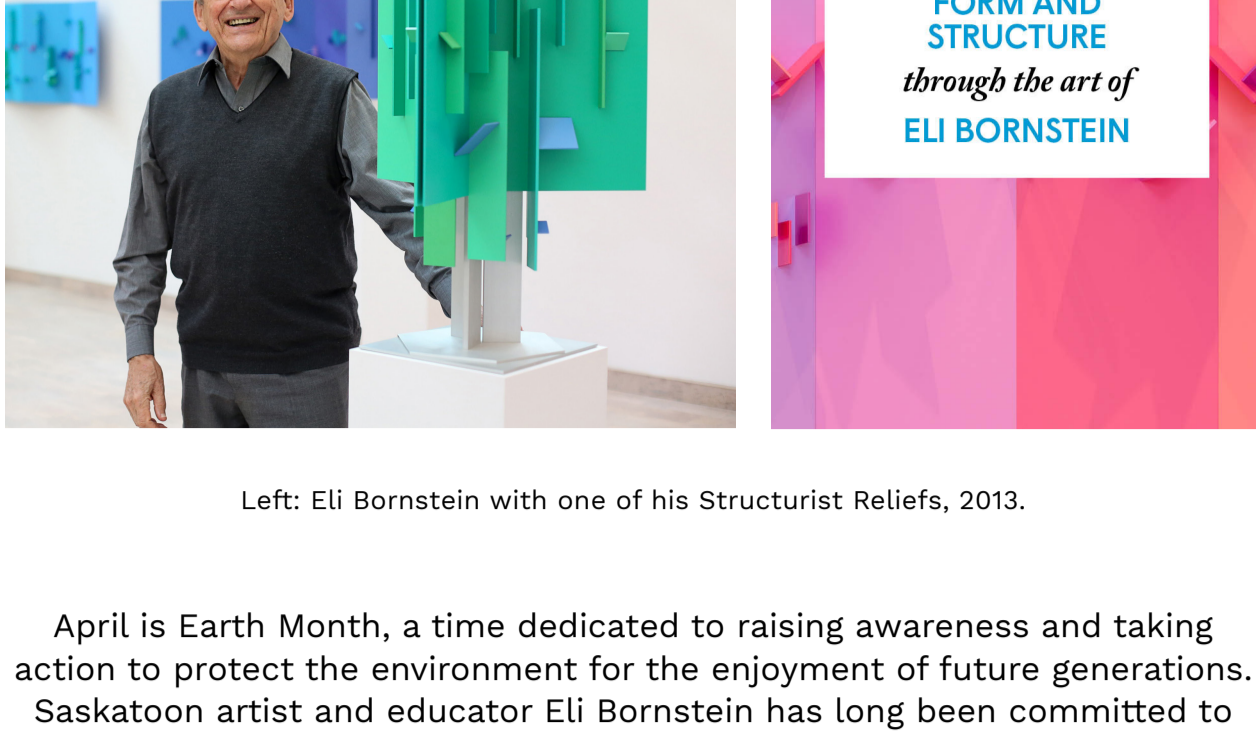


EARTH DAY ART EXPLORATIONS SPOTLIGHT ON ELI BORNSTEIN

ACI's latest Teacher Resource Guide honours the great Saskatoon artist's unique take on our beautiful planet.



Left: Eli Bornstein with one of his Structurist Reliefs, 2013.

April is Earth Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness and taking action to protect the environment for the enjoyment of future generations. Saskatoon artist and educator Eli Bornstein has long been committed to ecological causes and has explored art's relationship to environmentalism through his invention of a new art form that combines elements of sculpture and painting—what he refers to as the Structurist Relief. Inspired by the nation's diverse landscapes—especially those of the Arctic and the Prairies—Bornstein's Structurist Reliefs are born from the artist's keen observations of natural phenomena and his interest in translating the environment into visual form. Our latest Teacher Resource Guide provides three new learning activities inspired by Bornstein's innovative structures, demonstrating how students can capture their own experiences of the land in the classroom. In today's newsletter, we spotlight the 102-year-old artist's dedication to our beautiful planet.

Download the [Teacher Resource Guide](#) on Eli Bornstein.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Sculptural Forms

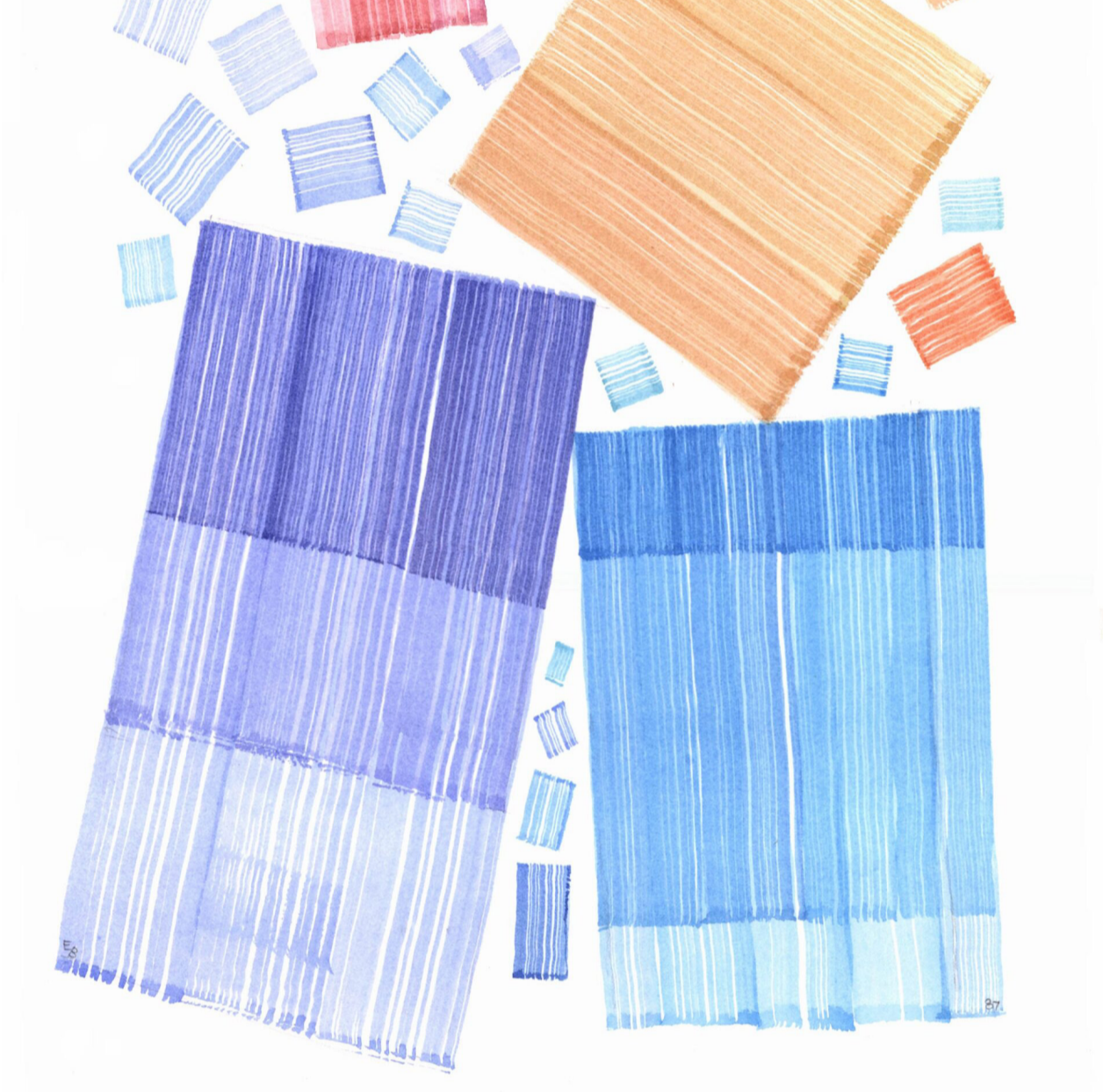


Eli Bornstein, *Aluminum Construction (Tree of Knowledge)*, 1956.

Eli Bornstein began his career as an artist making representational works on paper, but as he continued to explore his creativity, he felt called towards abstraction. An early example of Bornstein's creative experimentation is the public sculpture pictured above. This work demonstrates his shift towards non-representational structures that, while made of industrial materials, still manage to evoke the organic forms around us. Commissioned for the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation Building, this piece was Saskatoon's first abstract public work. We hope that it will inspire students to push boundaries when capturing their ideas artistically.

Explore a Learning Activity from our [Eli Bornstein Teacher Resource Guide](#) entitled "Experimenting with Structures."

Exploring the Outdoors



Eli Bornstein, *Arctic Study No. 38*, 1987.

Throughout his career, Bornstein travelled to remote areas in Canada seeking inspiration. His most profound trips were the ones he made to Ellesmere Island in the summers of 1986 and 1987. It was here where Bornstein created a series of watercolours such as the example above, which captures the feelings he experienced while being in the Arctic, translating the scenery into a simple composition with basic shapes and bright colours. The swatches Bornstein painted are non-representational, but students might find falling snow, a shining sun, or blocks of ice in his precise, colourful brushstrokes. Bornstein's Arctic watercolours are sure to move students to see the world around them in new ways.

Learn more about Eli Bornstein's watercolours in [Eli Bornstein: Life & Work](#) by Roald Nasgaard.

The Essence of Nature



Eli Bornstein, *Quadriplane Structurist Relief No. 2 (River-Screen Series)*, 1989–96.

Bornstein's works represent the natural world with profound simplicity. In the above Structurist Relief, elements of painting and sculpture create an all-encompassing viewing experience—the feeling of standing in front of an awe-inspiring vista. Here, Bornstein translates scenes from the riverbank near his home outside of Saskatoon, using protruding panels of translucent Plexiglas and bright hues of blue and green to evoke the brilliance of a prairie sky. We hope you will invite your students to follow in Bornstein's footsteps by searching landscapes close to home for unique textures, colours, and forms.

Explore a Learning Activity from our [Eli Bornstein Teacher Resource Guide](#) entitled "Experimenting with Structures."

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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.

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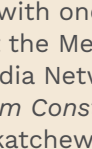
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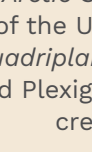
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