

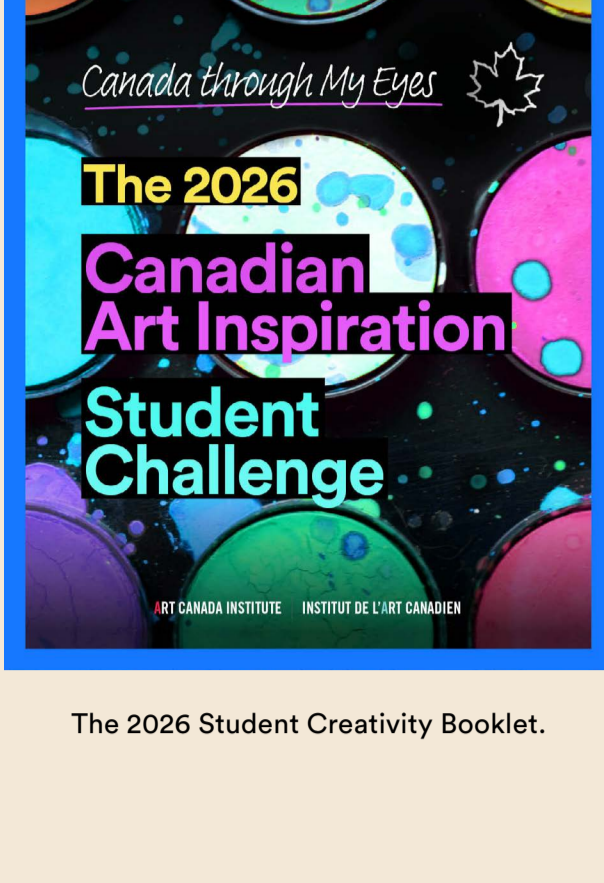
FEBRUARY 6, 2026

SUBMISSIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE CANADIAN ART INSPIRATION STUDENT CHALLENGE

*Do you know any talented student artists?
Tell them about this great opportunity.*



Past winner Muying Deng, a grade 9 student from Regina, Saskatchewan, holds her work, *To My Vanished Childhood*, inspired by the art of Helen McNicoll.



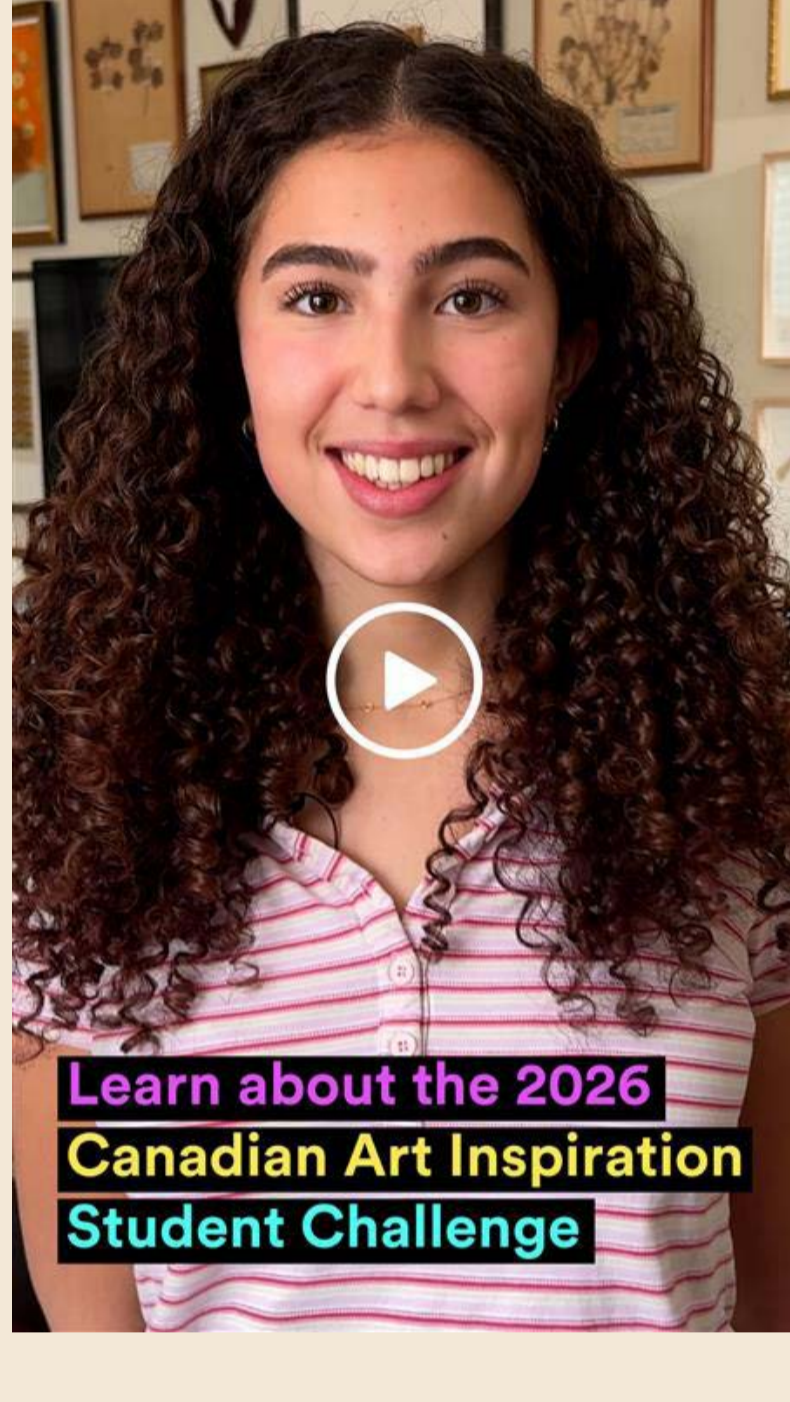
The 2026 Student Creativity Booklet.

How do you teach kids about this country's leading artists while offering them the opportunity to show their talent on a national stage? In 2020, we launched the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge to do just this—and to find, foster, and celebrate the next generation of visual art talent. Now in its sixth year, the contest invites students in grades 7 through 12 from across Canada to submit original works inspired by the country's greatest historical and contemporary artists. Winners receive attention from leading curators, cash prizes, and opportunities to show their work, at Art Toronto, Canada's most prominent art fair, on from October 29 to November 1, 2026. Keep reading to learn more about how to get involved.

Sara Angel
Founder and Executive Director, Art Canada Institute

[Visit the Student Challenge Webpage](#)

WATCH & SHARE THIS VIDEO



Watch this year's short promotional video to learn more about this exciting educational initiative and how to get involved. You can easily share the video with any aspiring student artists you know.

STUDENT WORK EXHIBITED AT ART TORONTO

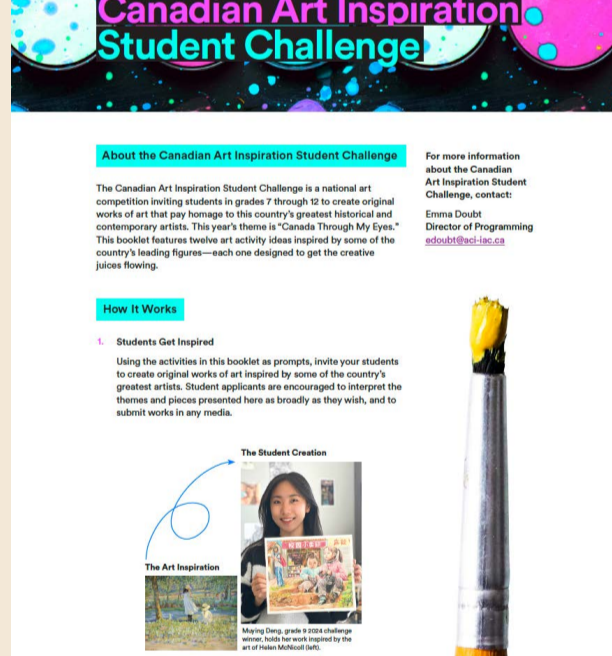


The ACI booth at the 2025 Art Toronto fair featuring student winners.

In addition to earning cash prizes, student winners will have the opportunity to showcase their work at Art Toronto, Canada's largest art fair, from October 29–November 1, 2026. This is a great chance for the next generation of artists to see their work exhibited on the national stage.

[See last years winners](#)

THE ART INSPIRATION RESOURCE



The 2026 Student Creativity Booklet.

Each year, ACI's education team publishes a brand-new resource of art activities and inspiration to guide student creativity. This year, students are required to submit works that respond to one of five Canada-inspired themes. Our new Student Creativity Booklet includes thematic prompts, guidelines, examples of artworks, and links to further learning to get the creative juices flowing.

[Download the 2026 Resource](#)

MEET THE JUDGES



Sarah Milroy
Executive Director and Chief Curator, McMichael Canadian Art Collection.



Ken Lum
Visual Artist and Marilyn Jordan Taylor Penn Presidential Professor, University of Pennsylvania.



Emma Hassencahl-Perley
Visual Artist and Curator of Indigenous Art, Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

Student submissions are reviewed by art education experts and renowned figures in the Canadian art world. This year's winning artworks will be adjudicated by an exceptional panel of judges, including curator and museum director Sarah Milroy, leading visual artist and professor Ken Lum, and curator of Indigenous art Emma Hassencahl-Perley.

[Learn more](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

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