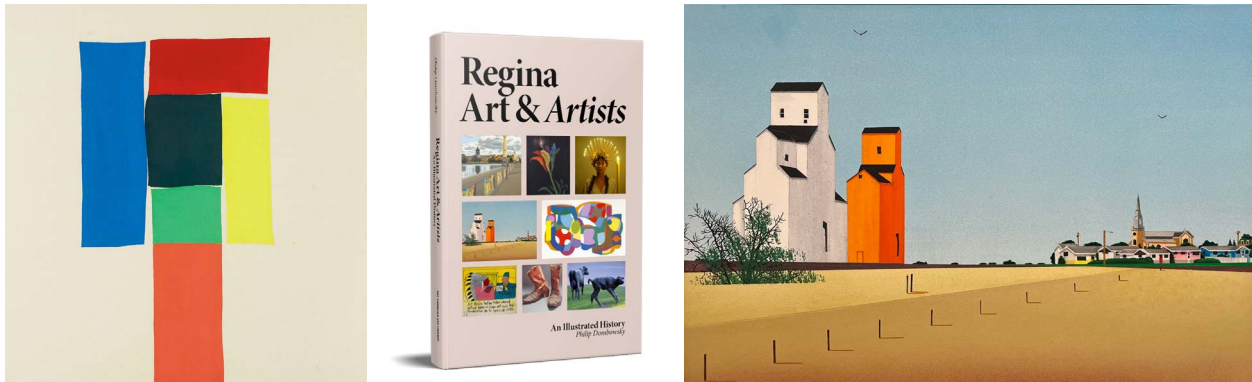


## Regina: a prairie city with a national voice in Canadian art

***Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History* explores the artists, institutions, and community builders who defined one of the country's most vital creative centres**

*A selection of press images is available through the link at the end of this release.*



LEFT: Kenneth Lochhead, *Dark Green Centre*, 1963. CENTRE: Cover of *Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*.  
RIGHT: David Thauberger, *A Dream of Autumn*, 2024.

**April 15, 2026, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**—Today, the Art Canada Institute (ACI) proudly releases the print edition of ***Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*** by Philip Dombowsky. The book is also available as a free, open-access, online publication in the celebrated [Canadian Online Art Book Project](#). This stunning and content-rich volume joins ACI's growing library of print and digital books expanding and redefining the story of visual arts in Canada.

Long recognized for its dynamic and deeply interconnected arts community, Regina has cultivated a distinctive cultural identity shaped by resilience, experimentation, and collaboration. With an eye on the breadth of Regina's artistic output, author Philip Dombowsky traces the city's development, foregrounding Indigenous visual traditions alongside the rise of modernist abstraction and the vitality of contemporary practices.

### **City of Creative Exchange and Innovation**

Situated on Treaty 4 territory, Regina has long been a site of artistic production grounded in place and community. *Regina Art & Artists* highlights key moments in the city's creative development, including the early establishment of women-led arts organizations, the groundbreaking Emma Lake Artists' Workshops—an internationally significant forum that connected Saskatchewan artists with leading critics and practitioners—and the rise of influential institutions such as the MacKenzie Art Gallery and the University of Regina. The book also examines the emergence of the Regina Five, whose bold abstract paintings helped position the city at the forefront of modernist art in Canada.

"Regina's art history is shaped by dialogue—between artists, communities, and ideas," says author Philip Dombowsky. "What emerges is a story of sustained experimentation and exchange, grounded in place but expansive in its reach."

## A Diverse and Influential Community

*Regina Art & Artists* foregrounds the artists who have defined the city’s cultural identity across generations, including the following:

- Among the most influential figures are members of the **Regina Five**—**Ronald Bloore, Ted Godwin, Kenneth Lochhead, Arthur McKay, and Douglas Morton**. Emerging in the 1960s, this group of painters brought national and international attention to Regina through their bold commitment to abstraction. Their works helped redefine the possibilities of modern painting in Canada.
- The **Regina Clay** movement, which included artists such as **Victor Cicansky, Joe Fafard, David Gilhooly, Marilyn Levine, and Jack Sures**, transformed ceramics in Canada. Based at Regina College, these artists challenged the division between craft and fine art, using clay as a sculptural and conceptual medium. Their work ranges from hyperrealist objects to expressive figures and satirical forms, often grounded in everyday life on the Prairies.
- Women such as **Sybil Henley Jacobson, Harriette Keating, Ruth Pawson, and Mildred Valley Thornton**, are among some of Regina’s most talented painters. They contributed to both institutional and grassroots developments in the city’s art, often balancing a professional practice with teaching and community-building. Their work reflects a wide range of approaches, from Pawson’s vast prairie landscapes and Keating’s skilled portraits.
- **Bob Boyer, Edward Poitras, and David Garneau** have been central to a resurgence in Indigenous artistic practice, catalyzed by the founding of the **Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC)** (Now the First Nations University of Canada) in the 1970s. As an important site for Indigenous-led education and cultural resurgence, SIFC fostered new generations of artists. Both Boyer and Poitras were closely affiliated with the institution, and their work reflects this context. Building on this legacy, Garneau’s multidisciplinary practice advances critical conversations around Métis identity and sovereignty.
- Contemporary artists including **Zachari Logan** and **Ayla Dmyterko** reflect the continued evolution of Regina’s art scene. Logan’s intricate drawings and installations explore the body, identity, and the natural world through a queer lens, while Dmyterko’s work engages with themes of diaspora and place. Together, they represent a new generation of artists whose practices are both locally grounded and internationally engaged.

## A Legacy of Resilience

“*Regina Art & Artists* delivers what defines ACI’s work: accessible, authoritative scholarship that highlights a place central to the evolution of Canadian art,” says Sara Angel, Founder and Executive Director of the Art Canada Institute. “As the first comprehensive account of Regina’s art history, this book represents a major milestone, offering a long-overdue synthesis of the artists, movements, and communities that have shaped it.”

*Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History* joins a growing list of titles that are redefining Canadian art in a contemporary context. ACI’s Canadian Online Art Book Project—which is an open-access digital art library, available in English and French, free of charge—continues to expand, with more than ninety titles released to date. In 2019, the ACI launched the Canadian Art Library, an imprint that publishes up to four books a year in print. Learn more about the Canadian Art Library by visiting <http://www.aci-iac.ca/print-books/>.

To explore the Art Canada Institute's open-access digital book *Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History* by Philip Dombowsky, please visit: <https://www.aci-iac.ca/art-books/regina-art-artists/>.

For **media requests** or for **interviews** with:

- **Philip Dombowsky**, author of *Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*
- **Sara Angel**, Founder and Executive Director, **Art Canada Institute**

please contact: [media@aci-iac.ca](mailto:media@aci-iac.ca)

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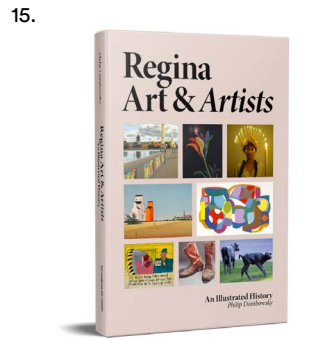
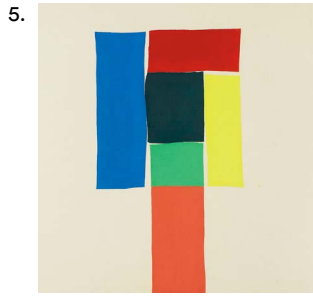
### **About Philip Dombowsky**

Philip Dombowsky is an art historian and archivist, formerly with the National Gallery of Canada (NGC), where he specialized in private collections and visual resources. He holds an MA in art history from Concordia University and a Master of Library and Information Studies from McGill University, Montreal. He is a regular contributor to the NGC's online magazine and the author of *Walter S. Allward: Life & Work* (Art Canada Institute, 2021) and *Index to the National Gallery of Canada's Exhibition Catalogues and Checklists 1880–1930* (National Gallery of Canada, 2007), which won the Melva J. Dwyer Award of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) in 2008.

### **About the Art Canada Institute**

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, on a digital platform, and free of charge in both English and French, across Canada and internationally. To accomplish this, ACI works with Canada's leading cultural institutions, art historians, curators, and visual culture experts, and is dedicated to the creation of authoritative original content on the people, themes, and topics that have defined Canadian art history.

**To learn more about ACI and to access our free digital library, please visit us! [aci-iac.ca](http://aci-iac.ca)**



## IMAGES

Download image files [here](#).

## IMAGE CREDITS

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1. View of the surrounding landscape and the petroglyphs created by once-known Lakota artists and shamans at St. Victor Petroglyphs Provincial Historic Park, St. Victor, date unknown, photographer unknown. Courtesy of Friends of the St. Victor Petroglyphs.
2. Sybil Henley Jacobson, *The Black Shawl*, c.1908, oil on canvas, 91.4 × 71.1 cm. Private collection, Vancouver.
3. Augustus Kenderdine, *The Buffalo Hunt*, 1915, oil on canvas, 59.7 × 90.2 cm. Collection of MacKenzie Art Gallery, University of Regina Collection, gift of the Estate of Dr. John B. Ritchie (1974-016). Courtesy of MacKenzie Art Gallery. Photo credit: Don Hall.
4. Ruth Pawson, *Fulfillment*, 1952, oil on canvas board, 50 × 60.7 cm. Collection of SK Arts Permanent Collection, Regina (1952-004). Courtesy of SK Arts Permanent Collection. Photo credit: SK Arts.
5. Kenneth Lochhead, *Dark Green Centre*, 1963, acrylic on canvas, 208.3 × 203.2 cm. Collection of Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, gift from the McLean Foundation 1965 (64/20). Courtesy of Art Gallery of Ontario.
6. Douglas Morton, *Continuum*, 1967, acrylic on canvas, 289.6 × 477.5 cm. Collection of Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina (PC83.1.39). Courtesy of Dunlop Art Gallery.
7. Joe Fafard, *Teevo*, 1987, bronze, 70 × 93 × 42 cm. Collection of MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina (1993-001). Courtesy of MacKenzie Art Gallery. Photo credit: Don Hall.
8. Victor Cicansky, *Root Cellar*, 1982, earthenware, glaze, lustre, wood, acrylic paint, 213.5 × 60.5 × 152.5 cm. Collection of MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina, University of Regina Collection, purchased with special donations (1983-019). Courtesy of MacKenzie Art Gallery. Photo credit: Don Hall.
9. Marilyn Levine, *Bob's Cowboy Boots*, 1973, ceramic, left: 33.7 × 34.1 × 13.0 cm, right: 33.3 × 33.5 × 15.4 cm. Private collection.
10. Bob Boyer, *A Seven Arrow Storm*, 1984, oil over acrylic on blanket, 190.5 × 230.4 cm. Collection of MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina (1984-7). Courtesy of MacKenzie Art Gallery. Photo credit: Don Hall.
11. David Garneau, *How the West Was...* (detail), 1997–2003, oil on canvas, eight “pages,” each with a varying number of panels, total dimensions: 120 × 180 cm. Collection of Glenbow Museum, Calgary (998.025.001 A-G). Courtesy of Glenbow Museum.
12. David Thauberger, *A Dream of Autumn*, 2024, acrylic on canvas, 60.9 × 91.4 cm. Private collection. Courtesy of Slate Fine Art Gallery, Regina.
13. Zachari Logan, *Wildman Picks Wildflowers*, 2020, red and blue pencil on Mylar, 25.4 × 17.8 cm. Courtesy of the artist.
14. Ayla Dmyterko, *Solastalgic Soliloquy*, 2020, Single-channel digital video, 5:27 min. Courtesy of the artist.
15. Philip Dombowsky, author of *Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*.
16. Cover of *Regina Art & Artists: An Illustrated History*.