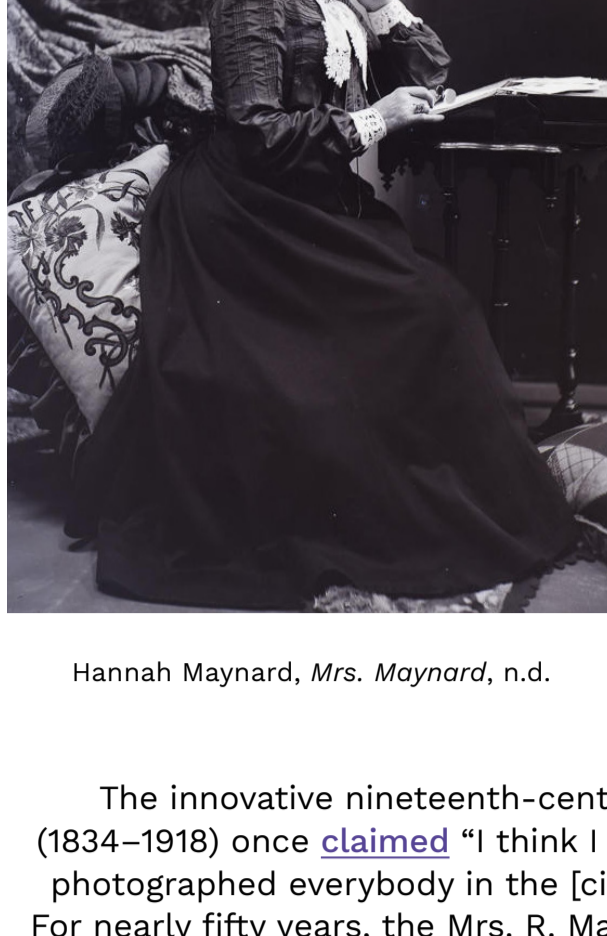
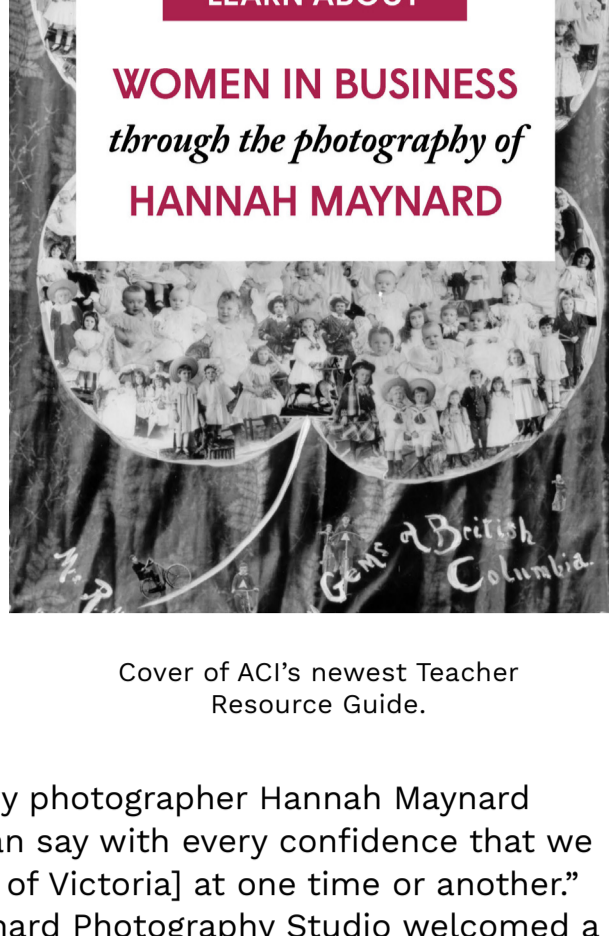


THROUGH HANNAH MAYNARD'S LENS WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Our latest Teacher Resource Guide explores the work of nineteenth-century photographer and entrepreneur Hannah Maynard



Hannah Maynard, *Mrs. Maynard*, n.d.



Cover of ACI's newest Teacher Resource Guide.

The innovative nineteenth-century photographer Hannah Maynard (1834–1918) once [claimed](#) “I think I can say with every confidence that we photographed everybody in the [city of Victoria] at one time or another.” For nearly fifty years, the Mrs. R. Maynard Photography Studio welcomed a broad clientele, from babies and debutantes to sailors and gold prospectors. One of the first women in Canada to operate a studio under her own name, the British-Columbia based entrepreneur navigated an unconventional public role, receiving professional acclaim at a moment when women's lives were governed by Victorian expectations of marriage and motherhood.

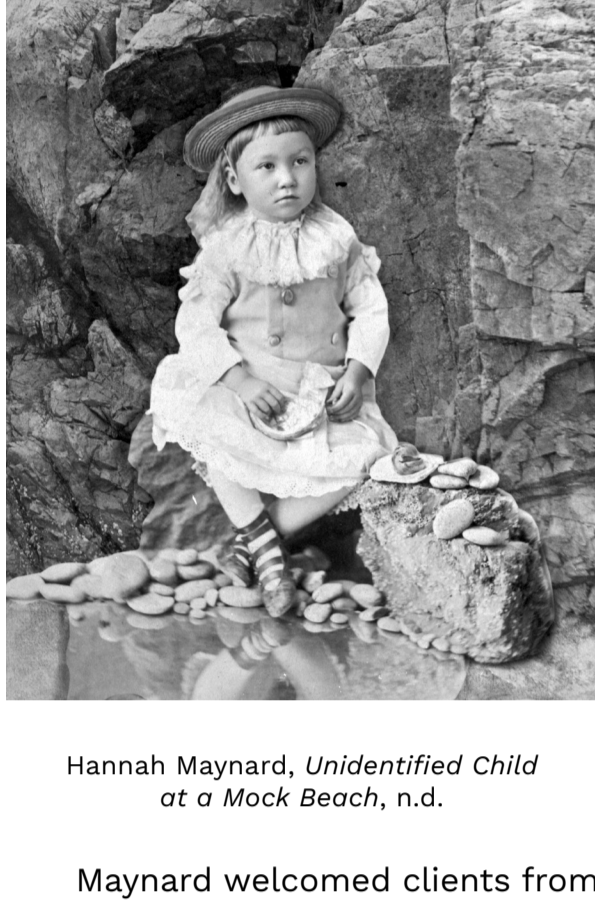
With Mother's Day approaching on May 10, we are highlighting her story. Her legacy as a working mother, artist, and entrepreneur in the nineteenth century offers a powerful lens through which to reflect on the experiences of women in business across time. Learn more in the Art Canada Institute's latest teacher resource guide, which introduces three learning activities designed to explore Maynard's life, community, and career in greater depth.

[Download the Teacher Resource Guide](#)

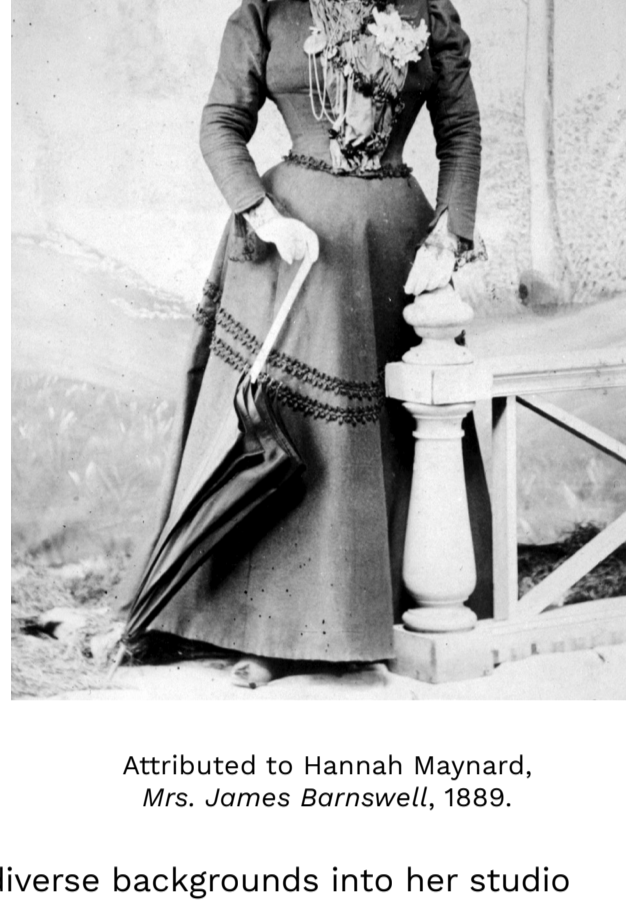
— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

AVENUES TO EXPLORE

Voices from the Studio



Hannah Maynard, *Unidentified Child at a Mock Beach*, n.d.



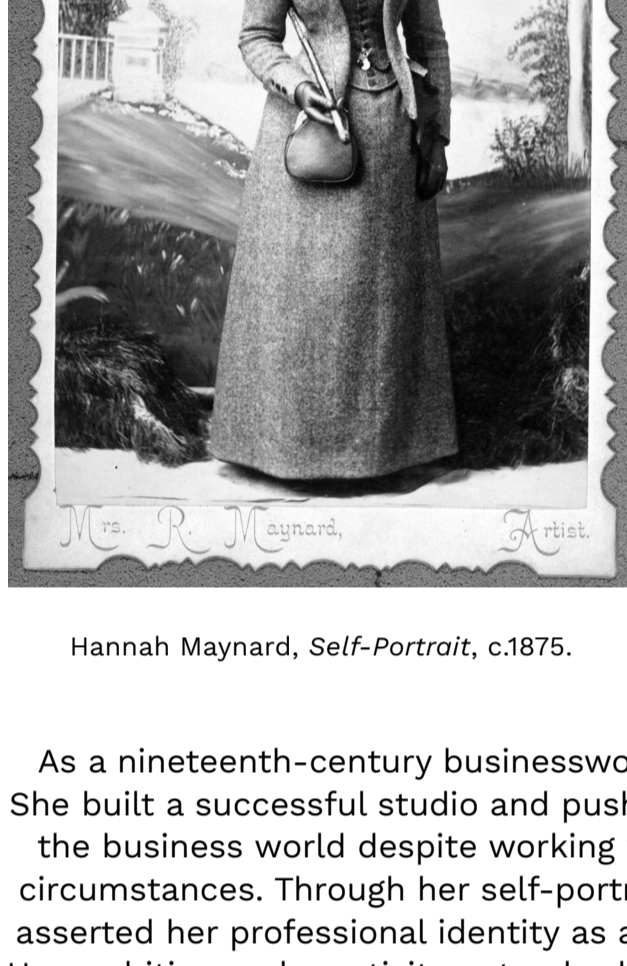
Attributed to Hannah Maynard, *Mrs. James Barnswell*, 1889.

Maynard welcomed clients from diverse backgrounds into her studio to share and preserve their stories. By documenting families, socialites, children, and valued members of her community, as seen in the photographs above, Maynard crafted “a multifaceted portrait of a growing city.” In a creative writing exercise, students will develop imaginative backstories for the individuals in Maynard's photographs. Writing from new perspectives while drawing on empathy and historical context, students will consider what portraits can reveal about relationships and identity within families and across communities. They will also reflect on Maynard's experiences as an artist and businesswoman, and on women's roles in the nineteenth century.

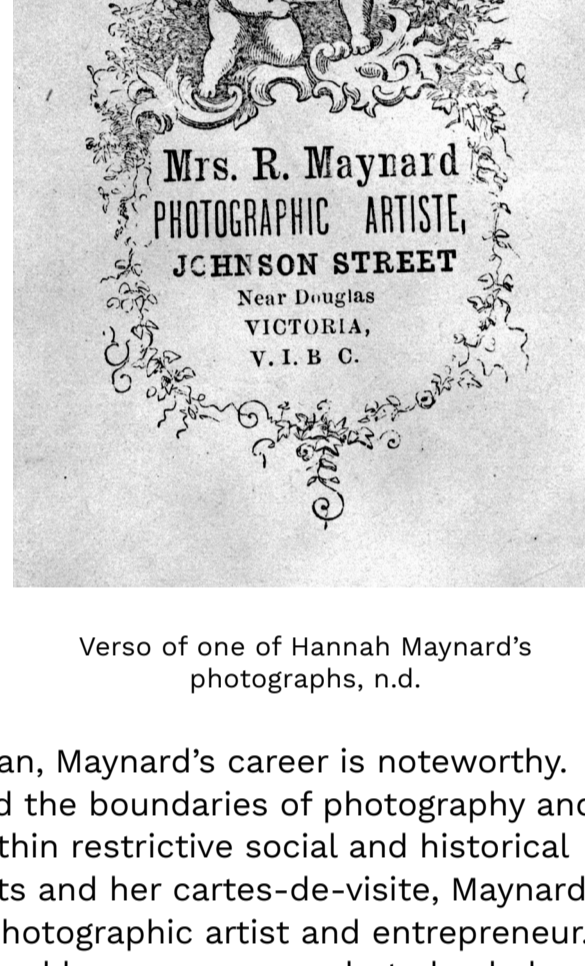
Explore the Learning Activity

[“Voices from the Studio: Clients, Creativity, Commerce.”](#)

Enterprising Women



Hannah Maynard, *Self-Portrait*, c.1875.



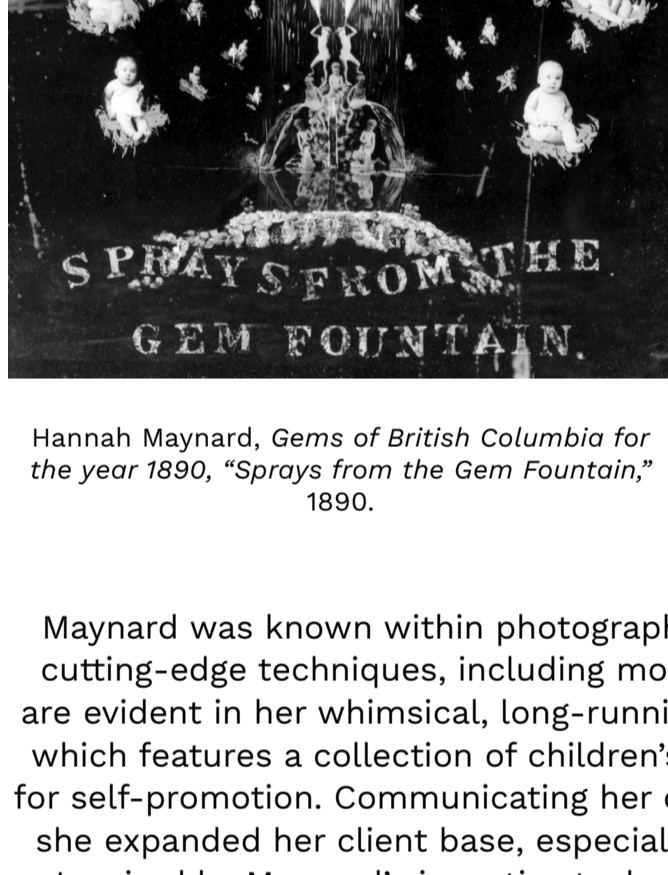
Verso of one of Hannah Maynard's photographs, n.d.

As a nineteenth-century businesswoman, Maynard's career is noteworthy. She built a successful studio and pushed the boundaries of photography and the business world despite working within restrictive social and historical circumstances. Through her self-portraits and her cartes-de-visite, Maynard asserted her professional identity as a photographic artist and entrepreneur. Her ambition and creativity not only shaped her own success but also helped pave the way for future generations of women in business, including her daughters, who were inspired to take up photography. Students will explore women's entrepreneurial experiences across time, comparing Maynard's career with that of a contemporary businesswoman of their choice.

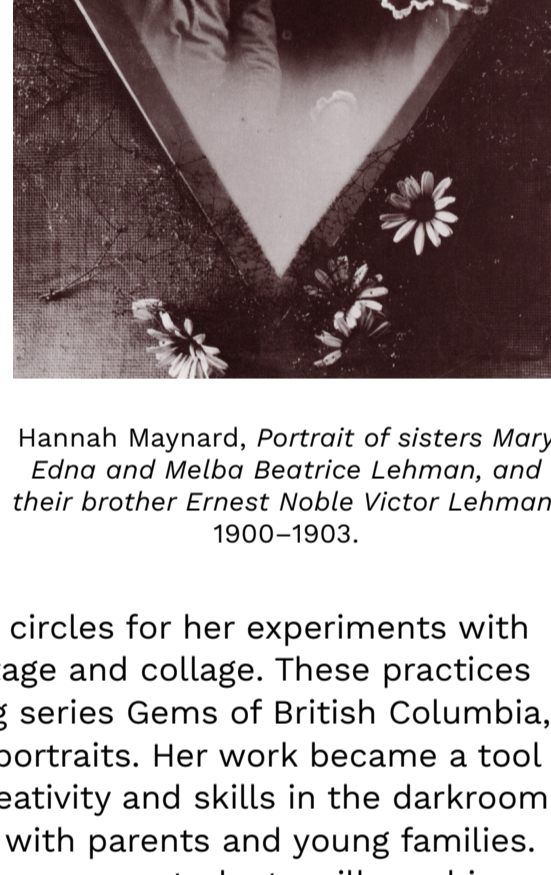
Explore the Learning Activity

[“Women in Business: Then and Now”](#)

A Business Feature



Hannah Maynard, *Gems of British Columbia for the year 1890, “Sprays from the Gem Fountain,”* 1890.



Hannah Maynard, *Portrait of sisters Mary Edna and Melba Beatrice Lehman, and their brother Ernest Victor Lehman*, 1900–1903.

Maynard was known within photography circles for her experiments with cutting-edge techniques, including montage and collage. These practices are evident in her whimsical, long-running series *Gems of British Columbia*, which features a collection of children's portraits. Her work became a tool for self-promotion. Communicating her creativity and skills in the darkroom, she expanded her client base, especially with parents and young families. Inspired by Maynard's inventive techniques, your students will combine images, words, and materials to design an advertisement that promotes Maynard's business or a contemporary female entrepreneur.

Explore the Learning Activity

[“A Business Feature: Hannah Maynard”](#)

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.

SIGN UP

S'INSCRIRE

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please share it.

SHARE

READ PAST NEWSLETTERS

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. ACI works with more than fifty of Canada's leading art historians, curators, and visual culture experts who create authoritative original content on the people, themes, and topics that have defined Canadian art history.

We are creating a central digital resource to share 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 sponsors of The Canadian Schools Art Education Program:

Presenting Sponsor
Hatch

Gold Sponsors

Grant and Alice Burton
The Connor, Clark & Lunn Foundation
Forum Asset Management
L'Heureux Family Foundation
HUNTERS International Insurance
The McLean Foundation

Silver Sponsors

Anne-Marie Canning
Christine and Andrew W. Dunn
Joan and Martin Goldfarb
The Scott Griffin Foundation
The Joan and Clifford Hatch Foundation
The Norman and Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation

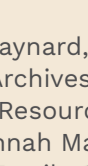
Bronze Sponsors

C. Fraser Elliott
Martin F. Katz, CM

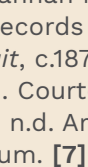
ACI is a not-for-profit educational charity. Our work is made possible by an important circle of [friends, patrons, and benefactors](#).

If you would like to support our important work, please see [this page](#).

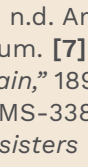
Follow us on social media



Facebook
[artcaninstitute/](https://www.facebook.com/artcaninstitute/)



Instagram
[@artcaninstitute](https://www.instagram.com/artcaninstitute)



X @artcaninstitute