FEATURE STORY

WHOSE CANADA?

Artists show us our country and ourselves in many different ways.

WINTER

A WINTER INCIDENT ABOUT 1860
Cornelius Krieghoff
oil on canvas, 32.8 x 45.8 cm

What happened here?!!

KITCHEN DOOR WITH URSULA 1966
Christiane Pflug
oil on canvas, 164.8 x 193.2 cm

Can you see spring in this winter picture?

WINTER LANDSCAPE 1956
Jean-Paul Lemieux
oil on canvas, 57.2 x 104.4 cm

NO BIG DEAL

For most of Canada’s past, art has simply been a part of regular life. Susanna Moodie found time in the busy life of an early Ontario settler to capture the beauty around her, like these wild roses. The owl mask on the right was created by Gilbert Dawson, a Kwagiulth carver from Vancouver Island. Masks representing spirits, animals and people have been used in Kwakwaka’wakw dances and ceremonies for thousands of years.
Artists can show us familiar things in new ways. They can make a dirty mining town cheerful and a lonely farm peaceful.

Why do you think the artist included the cemetery?

Which looks stronger – the church or the trees?

CHURCH AT YUQUOT VILLAGE 1929
Emily Carr
oil on canvas, 108.6 x 68.9 cm

GRAIN ELEVATOR AT LA SALLE, MANITOBA 1931
Walter J. Phillips
woodblock on paper, 22.9 x 34.7 cm

COBALT 1931
Yvonne McKague Husser
oil on canvas, 114.8 x 140 cm

A LAURENTIAN HOMESTEAD ABOUT 1919
Clarence Gagnon
oil on canvas, 51.5 x 66 cm
Take a close look at these images of people. Are they gazing out at you, or turned away? What does the expression on their faces tell you? Can you learn anything about them from what they’re wearing?

**PEOPLE**

*The Vaughan Sisters* 1910
William Brymner
oil on canvas, 102.4 x 129.0 cm

*Boy with Bread* 1892-1899
Ozias Leduc
oil on canvas, 50.7 x 55.7 cm

*“Kee-ak-ee-kaa-ka-wow,” 1849-1856*
(“The man that gives the war whoop, Head Chief of the Crees”) Plains Cree
Paul Kane
oil on canvas, 75.9 x 63.4 cm

*Celio 2012*
Charmaine Lurch
acrylic on canvas, 20 x 25 cm

*Miss Chatelaine* 1973
Suzy Lake
gelatin silver print, 50.5 × 40.5 cm

What do you think this musician is feeling?

Why do you think the artist wanted to show herself in all of these different poses?
PLAYING NINTENDO  2006
Annie Pootoogook
coloured pencil and ink on paper, 41.5 x 51 cm

MANITOBA PARTY  1964
William Kurelek
oil on masonite, 121.9 x 152.6 cm

What kind of feeling is the artist creating by using certain colours? Which styles do you like best — oil painting, pencil crayon, sculpture?

What do you think of the artist’s choice to show such a realistic scene?

What’s the big occasion?
WATER

Just as in nature, water in art can look calm or choppy, peaceful or scary. Do any of these paintings remind you of a river, lake or ocean that you’ve seen?

CANOE MANNED BY VOYAGEURS
PASSING A WATERFALL 1869
Frances Anne Hopkins
oil on canvas, 152.4 x 73.7 cm

The artist painted herself in the middle of these fur traders!

SUNRISE ON THE SAGUENAY, CAPE TRINITY 1880
Lucius O’Brien
oil on canvas, 90 x 127 cm

How do these paintings make you think of water without really showing it?

LOWER ST. LAWRENCE 1964
Marcel Barbeau
acrylic on canvas, 203.6 x 152.7 cm

Observer 1 2015
Among Migwans Beam
mixed media and handmade ink on paper,
in collaboration with Novak Graphics studio, 76.2 x 101.6 cm

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For some artists, Canada’s landscape is wide-open prairie or tundra. For others, it's lakes and pine trees, or mountains, or rolling hills, or rocky coves. What does Canada look like to you?

How did the photographer make a bleak place and subject look beautiful?

Like Tom Thomson, some painters do the same kinds of scenes over and over. Some never do the same kind of thing twice.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Does it seem like the circles are moving?

GONG-88  1967
Claude Tousignant
liquitex on canvas, 223.5 cm

Art fires our imagination. What do you think when you see these artworks? What do you feel?

HORSE AND TRAIN  1954
Alex Colville
glazed oil on hardboard, 41.2 x 54.2 cm

EGGS IN AN EGG CRATE  1975
Mary Pratt
oil on masonite, 50.8 x 61 cm

This Anishinaabe artist made these rubbings from the text on a statue of Sir John A. Macdonald in Kingston, Ont. How does the meaning change as she drops words?

QUOTE, MISQUOTE, FACT  2003
Rebecca Belmore
graphite on cotton rag vellum
GREAT GROUPS

FIRST SNOW 1919–1920
A.Y. Jackson
oil on canvas, 107.1 x 127.7 cm

Although members of the GROUP OF SEVEN (1920–1933) depicted lots of other things, they are best known for their paintings of the rugged lakes, trees and rocks of northern Ontario using bold brushstrokes and colours.

ROLLANDE 1929
Prudence Heward
oil on canvas, 139.9 x 101.7 cm

Around the same time as the Group of Seven, the BEAVER HALL GROUP formed in Montreal, although it only lasted a few years. Unusually, it had almost even numbers of women and men. Members mostly painted portraits and city scenes rather than landscapes.

MOOSE DREAM LEGEND 1962
Norval Morrisseau
oil on wove paper, 54.8 x 75.3 cm

The PROFESSIONAL NATIVE INDIAN ARTISTS INC. was also known as the Indian Group of Seven. These now-famous artists came together in the 1970s to highlight modern Indigenous art.

MIRAGE ON THE PLAIN 1956
Ronde Eveille
oil on canvas/board, 81.28 cm x 109.22 cm

LES AUTOMATISTES wanted to break away from Quebec’s past and welcome a chaotic future after the Second World War. Its members created abstract works and a famous statement of its views, the Refus Global manifesto, in 1948.