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RICHMOND ART GALLERY
School Art Program

Art RICH
2017

Teacher Guide

ArtRich 2017

Organized by the Richmond Artist Coalition

December 2, 2017 –December 31, 2017

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Program Overview

Dear Teachers,

This guide contains information about the exhibition, the artists, and some classroom activities that will help you to prepare your students for their visit to the Richmond Art Gallery. Please review this package with your students to get the most out of your gallery visit. The suggested activities require a minimum of materials and are adaptable to the needs of different grade levels.

Throughout the guide you will find art vocabulary words in bold that are defined in the glossary section, and resource links have been included for further topic explorations.

Program Goals

The goals of the gallery tour and art workshop are to encourage students to:

- Describe and respond to works of art and explore artists' intent
- Observe and share how artists use processes, materials, and techniques to express ideas
- Explore personal experience, community, and culture through art making
- Examine the relationship between art and the wider world
- Create artworks using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play

Big Ideas explored

- People create art to express who they are as individuals and as a community
- People connect to others and share ideas through the arts
- Exploring works of art exposes us to diverse values, knowledge, and perspectives
- Works of art influence and are influenced by the world around us
- Artistic expressions differ across time and place
- Experiencing art challenges our point of view and expands our understanding of others

Before Your Visit

Discussion: Introduction to Canadian Landscape Art

2017 marks Canada's 150th anniversary and ArtRich 2017 wants artists to celebrate that by creating work that reflects Canada's past, present, and future. In our gallery workshop, we will be focussing on the **genre of Landscape Art**. A genre is a category of art marked by a distinctive style, subject matter, or form, and the Landscape Art genre is defined by the fact that the subject of Landscape Art is the natural environment (rather than people, man-made objects, or other subject matter.)

Traditional Western landscape painting as we know it today started to appear in the late 17th century in Europe. While bits of landscapes appeared as backgrounds for portraits in the late Middle Ages, it was not until the 17th century that landscapes without any people in them started to appear as paintings themselves. By the middle of the 17th century, artists began to focus on depicting the atmosphere and the affects of light by painting outdoors "en plein air". **Plein Air painting** was embraced by the **Impressionist** painters in the 19th century, who used **simplification** in their depiction of the landscape, rejecting detailed realism and replacing it with deceptively simple, gestural paintings that captured the colour, shapes, and quality of light of a fleeting moment in time.

The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak. – Hans Hoffman

Inspired by the Impressionists and the tradition of plein air landscape painting, artists in Canada sought to capture the diversity of the Canadian environment and to portray the sheer size, ruggedness, wildness, and majesty of the mountains, forests, lakes, and oceans. Emily Carr, Tom Thomson, and the Group of Seven among others created what was considered the first distinctly Canadian style of painting.

Activity: Historical Canadian Landscape Painting Observation

Look at a few examples of historical Canadian Landscape paintings, like the ones linked below, or choose your own. Discuss the subject matter of these paintings, and the creative choices the artist has made in portraying these landscapes, using the questions listed below.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tom_Thomson_-_The_Jack_Pine_1916.jpg

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emily_Carr_\(1939\)_Odds_and_Ends.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Emily_Carr_(1939)_Odds_and_Ends.jpg)

<http://www.arthistoryarchive.com/arthistory/canadian/images/LawrenHarris-Mount-Thule-Bylot-Island-1930.jpg>

- What stands out most when you look at the picture? Where does your eye go?
- What natural features are shown in this picture?
- Where might you find a scene like this in Canada?
- What time of day is it? What time of year might it be?

- Where is the light coming from?
- What details has the artist eliminated to simplify the picture?
- How is this image different than a photograph?
- What shapes do you see?
- What colours are being used by the artist? Describe ALL the colours you see in the sky.
- Look at the brushstrokes. Are they big or small (hard to see)? Are they straight or curved? Why do you think the artist moved their brush this way?
- What is similar about these three pictures? What is different?

Further Online Resources

Group of Seven <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/group-of-seven/>

Emily Carr <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/emily-carr/>

Tom Thomson <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/tom-thomson/>

At the Gallery

Your visit will start with a gallery tour of our current exhibition **ArtRich 2017**. During the tour we will look at various artworks in depth, and discuss the overall themes of the exhibition.

Ideas explored through this exhibition:

- How contemporary artists are interpreting Canada through artmaking
- Continuity and change from traditional Canadian art to today
- How our community and values as Canadians are expressed through art

After the tour, we will go into the gallery classroom and students will paint their own Canadian landscape. We will focus on using the technique of **simplification**, and discuss creating a foreground, midground, and background to create depth in our landscapes. Using both historical and contemporary landscape paintings as inspiration, we will look at a variety of ways to use colour to create emphasis, depict light effects, and create separation between elements of the painting.

About The Exhibition

Adapted from the Richmond Arts Coalition website post on ArtRich 2017:

<http://richmondartscoalition.com/wordpress/artrich/>

The Richmond Art Gallery is hosting a juried exhibition organized by the Richmond Arts Coalition (RAC). In a **juried exhibition**, artists submit work to be judged by a **jury**, who score them to select a number to be displayed in the show. *ArtRich 2017* features artworks by local and regional visual artists from all over the Lower Mainland. The exhibition provides an opportunity for emerging and established artists from Richmond and nearby communities to exhibit together and celebrate local talent.

ArtRich 2017 responds to the past, present and future of this nation by encouraging artists to submit work that reflects upon Canada—pre-contact, now, and towards the future. Artworks displayed represent the artist's experiences, ideas or perspectives on the expansive land mass, communities and cultures we now define as Canada. Artists were encouraged in particular to consider the following areas of engagement: **Environment**, **Diversity**, and **Reconciliation**. Pieces reflect each artist's unique relationship with Canada.

The jurors look for new works (completed within the past two years) that show personal creative explorations and artistic commitment. Jurors also consider the technical execution of the work and select a balanced representation of styles, subject matter, and media from the submissions.

This exhibition, from December 2nd to 31st, is presented by the Richmond Arts Coalition with the generous support of the Richmond Art Gallery, the City of Richmond and Canada 150 funding.

About The Organizers

Adapted from the RAC Website: <http://richmondartscoalition.com/wordpress/about-rac/>

This exhibition was organized by the Richmond Arts Coalition. The Richmond Arts Coalition brings artists and arts organizations together to discuss issues and advocate with one voice. Ever since its establishment in August 2005, the RAC continues to build a strong, united, member-driven organization that serves the interests of artists and arts and culture organizations in Richmond. Among many other art initiatives, the RAC co-produce the annual Richmond Arts Awards with the City, lobby for new Performing and Visual Arts Centres in Richmond, and speak regularly with the Richmond's City, provincial and federal representatives.

Their Vision

To be a welcoming and inclusive member-driven association that will support and celebrate culture and arts activity in Richmond.

Their Mandate

To create support for a diversity of cultural and arts experiences by ensuring that artists, arts organizations and arts supporters can contribute to the quality of life in Richmond, as expressed in the following ways:

- Advocate for arts and culture to all levels of government
- Work with other coalitions for arts and culture
- Provide a communications platform for culture and the arts
- Advocate for a new cultural and performing arts facility in Richmond
- Ensure that Richmond arts and culture are represented at major events in Richmond.

After Your Visit

Activity: Collaborative Collage of Canada

Adapted from activity on the Studio-Kids blog <http://www.studio-kids.com/2013/04/>

As a class, collage a giant map of Canada reflecting our present and your hopes and dreams for the future. Start with a discussion about key features and values that define Canada, our culture and lifestyle. Next discuss hopes for the future of Canada, what they would like to see changed or grown. List ways to visually represent these ideas on the board, and ways to find or create these images (drawing, finding in magazines, printing off websites, photocopying from books, etc.).

Materials:

- large map of Canada, cut out and glued to white poster board
- construction paper, tissue paper, patterned papers
- tracing paper
- assortment of markers, gel pens, metallic pens
- Mod Podge, acrylic gloss medium, or white glue
- Optional: Stamps and ink pad, watercolour paints, additional collage materials

Procedure:

1. Students work in groups on one province or territory of Canada. Using tracing paper, they trace the outline of a province/territory from the large map, cut it out, and outline it on construction paper (different colours for bordering areas) Alternatively, each student cuts out that province or territory from the original map and collages directly onto the map paper.
2. Physical features can be added with crumpled or folded tissue paper, painted over with white glue, gel medium, or mod podge.
3. Drawings, printouts, and photocopied images can be trimmed and added to each area.
4. Using felt or metallic pens, students then write on the province or territory their reflections on Canadian values and their hopes for the future of the country. Writing can be done to follow borders, rivers, or mountains, or to create patterns. Additional drawing can be done to connect all the elements in each collaged shape. Optionally images can be stamped on the landscape.
5. Students glue the province or territory to the posterboard.
6. Students cut up squares of tissue paper in the varying shades of blue, green and purple, and glue to background using Mod Podge, acrylic gloss medium, or white glue. The former two will give the ocean a realistic shine.
7. Students can draw themselves on the map as well!



image from: <http://www.studio-kids.com/2013/04/>

Some additional ways to create layers:

- Translucent tissue paper
- Making stickers using packing tape
- Stamping on top of painting
- Crayon or oil pastel painted over with watercolour
- Painting over photos or on paper that is already printed
- Painting a coloured area then scraping lines in the paint to reveal the colour underneath

Resources

Books

A Day in Canada by Per-Henrik Gurth

C is for Canada: Celebrating Our Nation by Michael Ulmer

Canada's 150th Birthday by Kathy Middleton

Online

Canada 150 Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/150th_anniversary_of_Canada

Canada 150 Vancouver site <https://canada150plus.ca/>

Group of Seven <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/group-of-seven/>

Emily Carr <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/emily-carr/>

Tom Thomson <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/en/article/tom-thomson/>

Richmond Arts Coalition Website <http://richmondartscoalition.com/wordpress/>

Rubrics

Studio Habits of Mind Rubric: <https://www.theartofed.com/2016/01/15/using-the-studio-habits-as-a-guide-for-reflective-self-assessment/>

Visual Rubric: <https://www.theartofed.com/2011/12/14/great-idea-a-visual-rubric/>

Glossary

Collage	Collage was originally a French word, derived from the word “ <i>coller</i> ”, meaning “to paste”. Collages are made by gluing elements such as papers, photos, or cloth to a flat surface, creating a new picture or design.
Contemporary Art	Artwork that is produced in this current time, generally considered to be artworks made from 1970 to the present. Contemporary art is a very broad term, including artworks made in almost any medium and incorporating many different themes and ideas.
Genre	A category of art marked by a distinctive style, subject matter, content, or form. For example, portrait, landscape, and still-life are different art genres defined by the subject matter they depict.
Impressionism	A style of painting in which the artist paints their subject using quick brushstrokes to capture a moment in time. Often painted outdoors “ en plein air ” so the artist can observe the actual qualities of light, and often painted using bold, vibrant colours.
Juried Exhibition	An exhibition made up of works selected by a jury from open-call submissions.
Jury	A group of persons chosen to judge prizes, awards, etc., as in a competition.
Landscape Art	Art that depicts the natural environment as its primary subject.
Medium	The material or technique used by the artist to make an artwork. For example, paint is the medium used in a painting.
Plein Air Painting	To painting outdoors in daylight in order to depict the actual lighting conditions.
Simplification	To focus on the most prominent lines, shapes, and colours of a subject. By eliminating fine details, the subject of the picture becomes more prominent.

Image Credits

Cover: ArtRich 2017 Logo

Page 9: Image of Country Collage Art Project: <http://www.studio-kids.com/2013/04/>

School Program Supporters and Partners



The Richmond Art Gallery School Art Program is one of many gallery programs made possible by the Richmond Art Gallery Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to extending the reach of our gallery exhibitions through community programming.



www.isibus.com

International Stage Lines is making it possible for more schools to visit by donating free bus travel to and from the gallery. Enter to win a free bus trip at <http://www.richmondartgallery.org/learn-and-create/schools/elementary>



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ARTS COUNCIL
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

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Richmond