

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE 2024 GREAT CANADIAN ART INSPIRATION STUDENT CHALLENGE

We asked students from coast to coast to create original artworks that pay homage to this country's greatest historical and contemporary artists. Today, we share their remarkable works.



Grade 9 student Muying Deng of Regina, Saskatchewan, holding her work, My Vanished Childhood.

Who are your personal heroes? What is our responsibility to the planet? How do you connect with our culture? We asked... and students across Canada answered with exceptional creations inspired by the nation's greatest artists.

First Place Winner, Grades 7-9 DANCING WITH DEATH by Lana Yousef



Oscar Cahén, Multi-part Mural, Staff Lounge and Cafeteria of the Imperial Oil Executive Office Building, Toronto, 1956. Lana Yousef, Dancing with Death, digital medium, 16.4 x 15.9 cm.

"Oscar Cahén's [...] mural for the staff lounge and cafeteria of the Imperial Oil executive office in Toronto fascinated me... His mural brought life to the once-grey atmosphere, turning it into a room that popped with beaming colours.

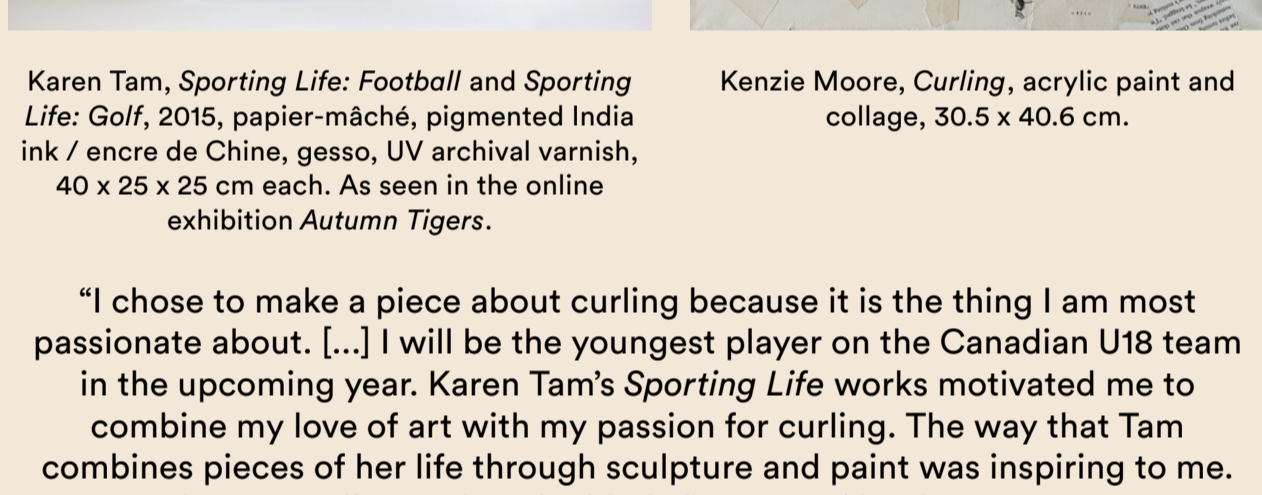
Honourable Mention, Grades 7-9 TO MY VANISHED CHILDHOOD by Muying Deng



Helen McNicoll, Watching the Boat, c.1912. Muying Deng, To My Vanished Childhood, colour pencil on paper, 30.5 x 25.4 cm.

"This artwork is inspired by Helen McNicoll's tender depictions of childhood. Some of McNicoll's fabulous art pieces demonstrate the simple goodness of childhood—a time when the world seems full of endless possibility.

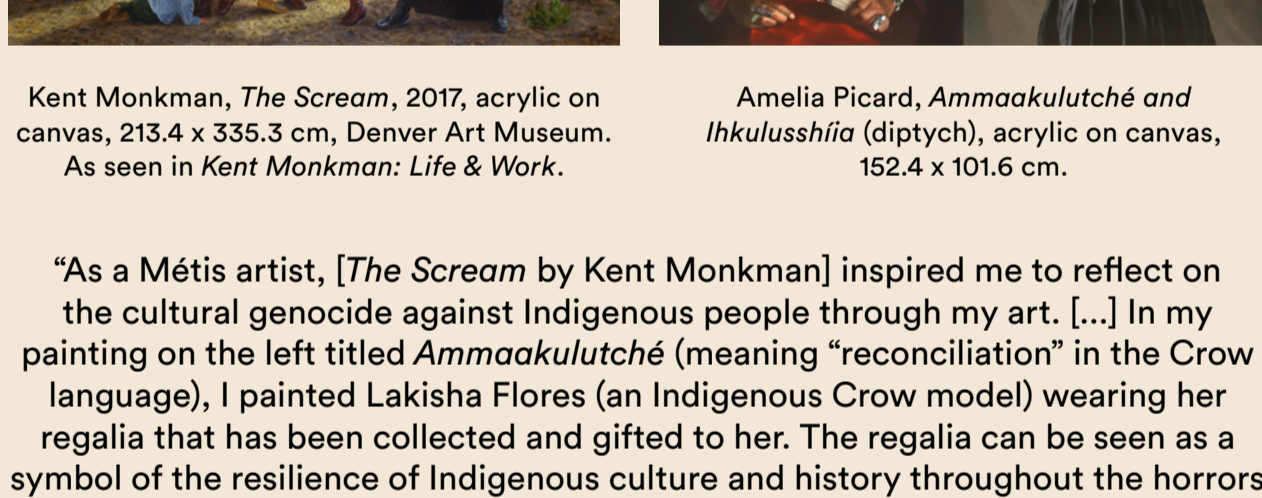
Honourable Mention, Grades 7-9 NAVY CONVICTION by Luvena Theodora Rosa



Molly Lamb Bobak, Canteen, Nijmegen, Holland, 1954. Luvena Theodora Rosa, Navy Conviction, acrylic on canvas, 35 x 25 cm.

"Molly Lamb Bobak's paintings monumentalizing women and scenes from the Second World War inspired me to create this piece. I wanted to express my gratitude and admiration to those who fought during the war by painting one of the Canadian fighters.

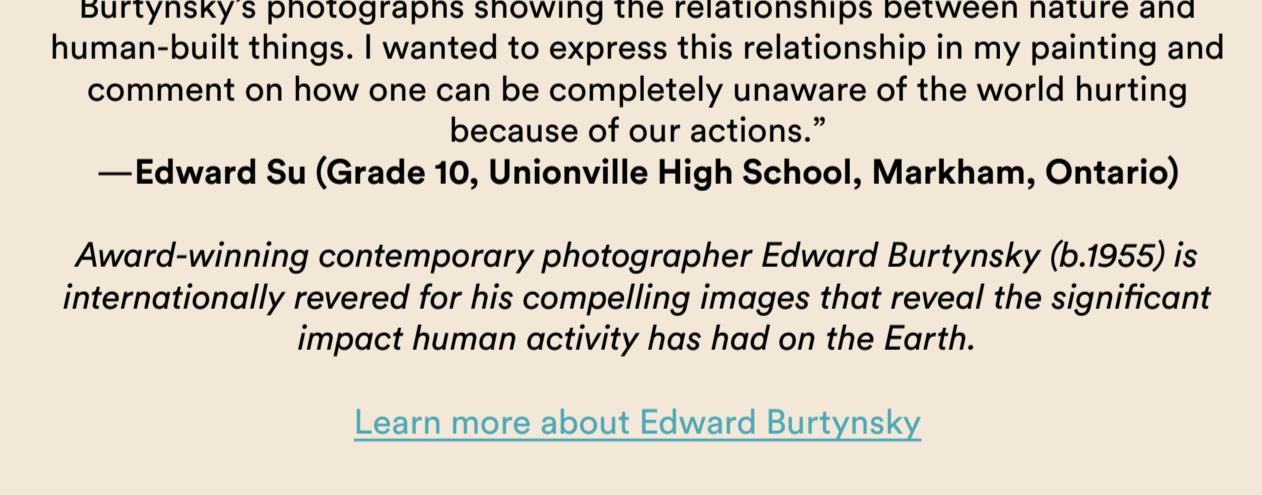
Honourable Mention, Grades 7-9 MALFUNCTIONING by Maytal Peres



Prudence Howard, The Emigrants, 1928. Maytal Peres, Malfunctioning, acrylic on canvas, 55.9 x 60.9 cm.

"Malfunctioning is inspired by Prudence Howard's The Emigrants and aims to critique social norms and trends. When I first saw Howard's painting, it really spoke to me because it seemed as though the person on the left was guiding the person on the right in a certain direction.

Honourable Mention, Grades 7-9 CURLING by Kenzie Moore



Karen Tam, Sporting Life: Football and Sporting Life: Golf, 2015. Kenzie Moore, Curling, acrylic paint and collage, 30.5 x 40.6 cm.

"I chose to make a piece about curling because it is the thing I am most passionate about. [...] I will be the only player on the Canadian U18 team in the upcoming year. Karen Tam's Sporting Life works motivated me to combine my love of art with my passion for curling.

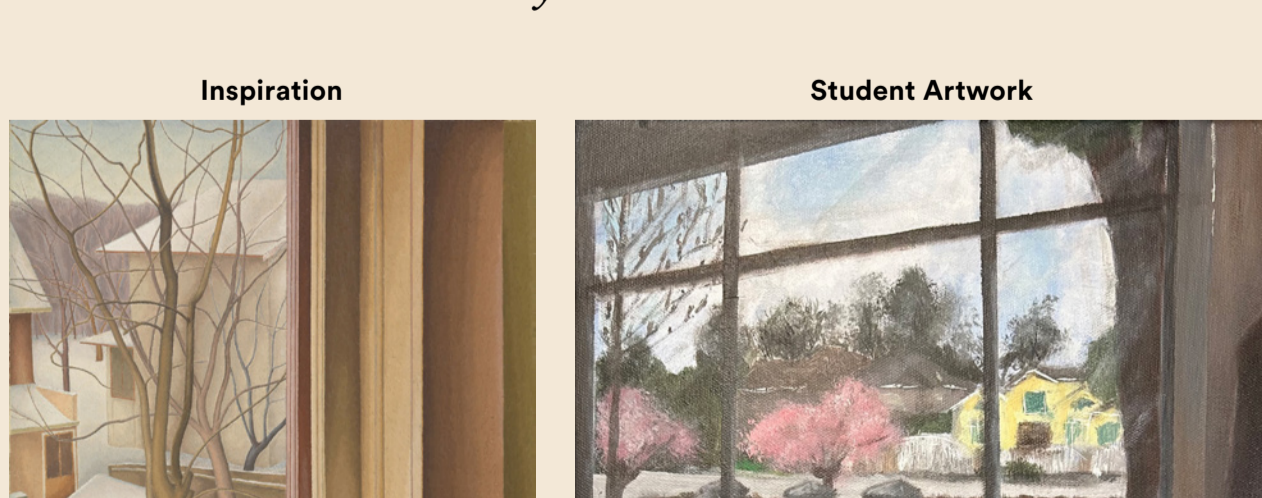
First Place Winner, Grades 10-12 AMMAAKULUTCHÉ AND IHKULUSHÍIA by Amelia Picard



Kent Monkman, The Scream, 2017. Amelia Picard, Ammaakulutché and Ikhulushíia (diptych), acrylic on canvas, 152.4 x 101.6 cm.

"As a Métis artist, [The Scream by Kent Monkman] inspired me to reflect on the cultural genocide against Indigenous people through my art. [...] In my painting on the left titled Ammaakulutché (meaning "reconciliation" in the Crow language), I painted Lakisha Flores (an Indigenous Crow model) wearing her regalia that has been collected and gifted to her.

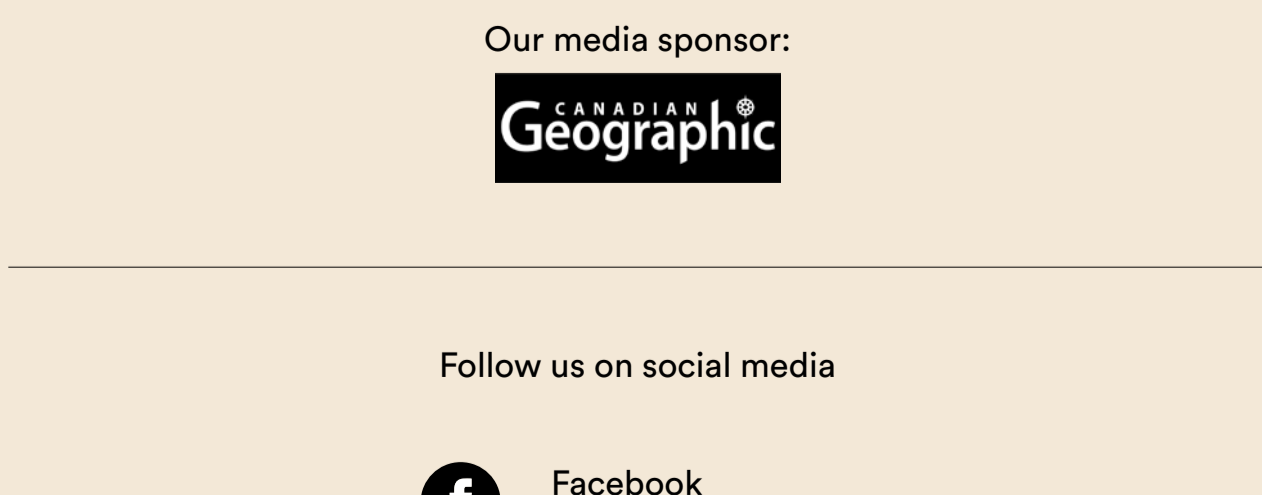
Honourable Mention, Grades 10-12 DISCOVERY by Edward Su



Edward Burtynsky, Row-Irrigation, Imperial Valley, Southern California, USA, 2009, photograph. Edward Su, Discovery, acrylic on canvas, 45.7 x 60.9 cm.

"My painting is concerned with how artists, or people in general, can change the way we see the world. Images can easily deceive us [into] thinking that the world is still okay. In my artwork, I illustrate the natural world transforming into the city—something more metal and artificial—by juxtaposing an image of mountain scenery over that of the CN Tower.

Honourable Mention, Grades 10-12 ABSTRACTION by Theo Newbury



General Idea, The 1971 Miss General Idea Pageant, 1971, various media, dimensions variable. Theo Newbury, Abstraction, digital illustration, 56.4 x 63.5 cm.

"Art is a medium that transcends boundaries of all kinds. Pioneering queer self-expression and spreading AIDS awareness, General Idea changed the art scene in Canada. Their works are an inspiring testament to our brave history.

Honourable Mention, Grades 10-12 BOY WITH JUNK by Haem Park



Ozias Leduc, L'enfant au pain (Boy with Bread), 1932-39. Haem Park, Boy with Junk, oil paste and gouache, 45.7 x 60.9 cm.

"Ozias Leduc's Boy with Bread inspired me to make Boy with Junk because I wanted to represent the mindset of teenagers today through a boy who is fortunate but doesn't really care about his situation in life. Leduc's painting conveys a quiet, dreamlike feeling, depicting a boy leaning over and playing a harmonica while staring at his leftover bread.

Honourable Mention, Grades 10-12 SPRING BREAK by Frankie Wu



Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald, From an Upstairs Window, Winter, c.1950-51. Frankie Wu, Spring Break, Acrylic on canvas, 30.4 x 30.4 cm.

"Spring Break is inspired by L.L. FitzGerald's From an Upstairs Window, Winter. [...] Feelings of warmth are evoked in a winter scene and aspects of study are left at the edges of the piece. In addition, the unique directions of the trees resemble imperfection and playfulness.

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

The ACI is a not-for-profit educational charity that receives no government financing or public support. Our work is made possible by an important circle of friends, patrons, and benefactors.



Image Credits: [1] Oscar Cahén, Multi-part Mural, Staff Lounge and Cafeteria of the Imperial Oil Executive Office Building, Toronto, 1956, acrylic on canvas, approximately 294.6 x 670.6 cm (cropped on the right). Collection of the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Ottawa. Photographs in collection of The Cahén Archives, © The Cahén Archives. [2] Helen McNicoll, Watching the Boat, c.1912, oil on canvas, 64.1 x 76.8 cm. Private collection. Photo credit: Karen Tam. [6] Kent Monkman, The Scream, 2017, acrylic on canvas, 213.4 x 335.3 cm. Collection of the Denver Art Museum, Native Arts acquisition funds and funds from Loren G. Lipson, M.D. (2017/53). © Kent Monkman. Photo credit: Denver Art Museum. [7] Edward Burtynsky, Row-Irrigation, Imperial Valley, Southern California, USA, 2009, photograph. Courtesy of the artist. [8] General Idea, The 1971 Miss General Idea Pageant, 1971, various media, dimensions variable. Collection of the Carmen Lamanna Estate. Courtesy of General Idea. © General Idea. Photo credit: General Idea. [9] Ozias Leduc, L'enfant au pain (Boy with Bread), 1932-39, oil on canvas, 50.7 x 55.7 cm. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa. Purchased in 1969 (1973). © Ozias Leduc. Estate / SCORPAC. [10] Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald, From an Upstairs Window, Winter, c.1950-51, oil on canvas, 61 x 45.7 cm. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Purchased 1961 (6800). © With the permission of Patricia and Earl Green, co-holders of the FitzGerald copyright. Photo credit: National Gallery of Canada.