

## PRINTMAKING IN THE CLASSROOM

### TEACHING THE ART OF BETTY GOODWIN

*ACI's latest Teacher Resource Guide features the work of Betty Goodwin, an innovative printmaker who left her mark on Canada's contemporary art world.*



LEARN ABOUT

PRINTMAKING  
through the art of  
BETTY GOODWIN

Left: Goodwin in her Montreal studio, 1986.

Betty Goodwin (1923–2008) revolutionized the medium of printmaking in Canada when, in 1968, she began putting pieces of clothing through a printing press. The Montreal artist's approach to printmaking has been celebrated as a breakthrough for the medium, and the resulting works continue to resonate due to Goodwin's skill in capturing the tactile qualities of memory. Our latest Teacher Resource Guide encourages this kind of creativity, presenting three new learning activities based on Betty Goodwin's unique printmaking techniques. In this week's newsletter, we highlight how students can begin to develop a new technical vocabulary for expressing personal narratives, symbols, and memories to produce meditative works of art. We hope that this latest classroom resource will inspire the next generation of innovative creators to follow in Betty Goodwin's footsteps.

Download the [Teacher Resource Guide](#) on Betty Goodwin.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

## AVENUES TO EXPLORE

### Creating Material Symbols



Betty Goodwin, *Two Vests*, 1972.

In the late 1960s, Betty Goodwin began experimenting with using three-dimensional objects to create two-dimensional replica prints, a process that led her to create works such as *Two Vests* (pictured above), which is part of her iconic series of prints featuring this garment. Her innovative printmaking technique was rooted in the symbolic and material significance of the vest, an object that recalls her late father's career as a tailor. Goodwin's works are powerful sources of inspiration for encouraging students to identify their own symbols of significance, creating deep connections between their personal identities and the tangible world around them.

Learn more about Betty Goodwin's Vest series in [Betty Goodwin: Life & Work](#) by Jessica Bradley.

Explore a [Learning Activity](#) entitled "Symbols of Significance: Examining the Prints of Betty Goodwin."

### Featuring Found Objects



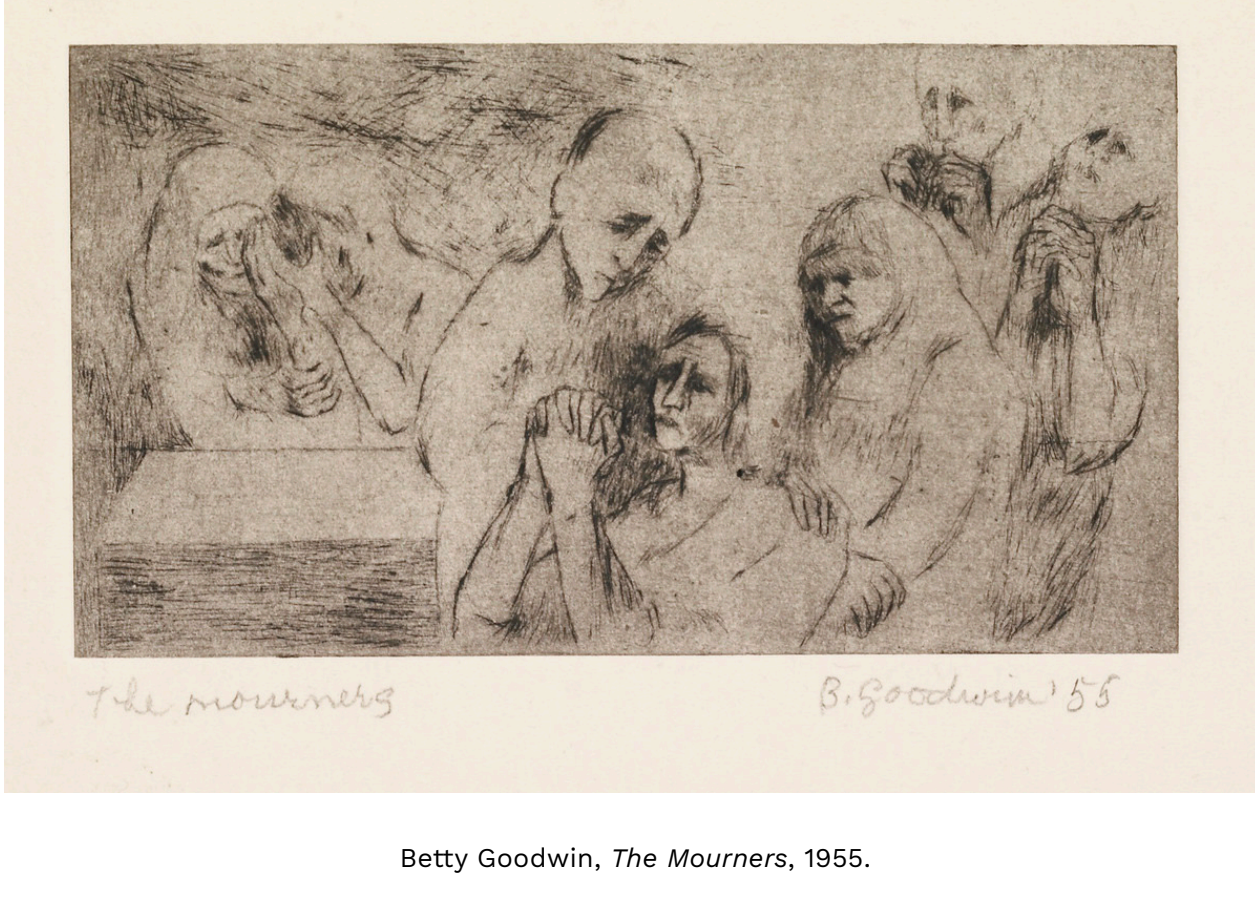
Betty Goodwin, *Parcel Seven*, 1969.

Found objects were a cornerstone of Betty Goodwin's work, and throughout her life, she created a material library of intriguing objects—such as the parcel featured here—that contributed to her artmaking practice. By incorporating found materials into her printmaking, Goodwin continued the legacy of her Vest series, creating unexpected two-dimensional compositions from repurposed three-dimensional objects that were oftentimes discarded. Goodwin's found object prints remind us that the tactile things we encounter, and maybe overlook, in our daily lives can be repositioned as subjects and tools for creating art.

Learn more about Betty Goodwin's Vest series in [Betty Goodwin: Life & Work](#) by Jessica Bradley.

Explore a [Learning Activity](#) entitled "Printmaking in Action: Creating Relief Prints."

### Responding to Politics



Betty Goodwin, *The Mourners*, 1955.

Though Betty Goodwin's art may seem conceptually abstract, she often used her practice to reflect on deeply personal narratives and respond to world events. Goodwin's work was never overtly political, yet pieces of hers, such as this early etching titled *The Mourners*, convey themes of memory, loss, and humanity, while also laying the foundation for her later prints with similarly emotional themes. In demonstrating how to communicate ideas to the world through meaningful means, Goodwin's body of work can prompt students to respond meaningfully to current events and connect them to their lived experiences.

Learn more about Goodwin's poetic approach to political subject matter in [Betty Goodwin: Life & Work](#) by Jessica Bradley.

Explore a [Learning Activity](#) entitled "Connecting to Current Events: Printmaking and Personal Expression."

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We are creating a central digital resource to tell 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.

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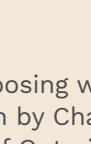
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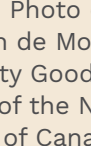
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