

CELEBRATE CANADA'S YOUNG ARTISTS  
WITH ACI'S ANNUAL STUDENT CHALLENGE

*We are now accepting submissions for the Art Canada Institute's fifth annual art contest showcasing the next generation of Canadian creators.*



With a new year on the horizon, the ACI Education Program is delighted to announce the launch of the Canadian Art Inspiration Student Challenge, our annual celebration of Canada's young artistic talent. With this initiative, we invite young makers in Grades 7 through 12 to create original works—in any medium—inspired by Canada's greatest historical and contemporary artists.

This year's challenge also has an exciting new feature: in October 2025, winning submissions will be showcased at Art Toronto, Canada's largest contemporary art fair attended by industry leaders and artists from across the country.

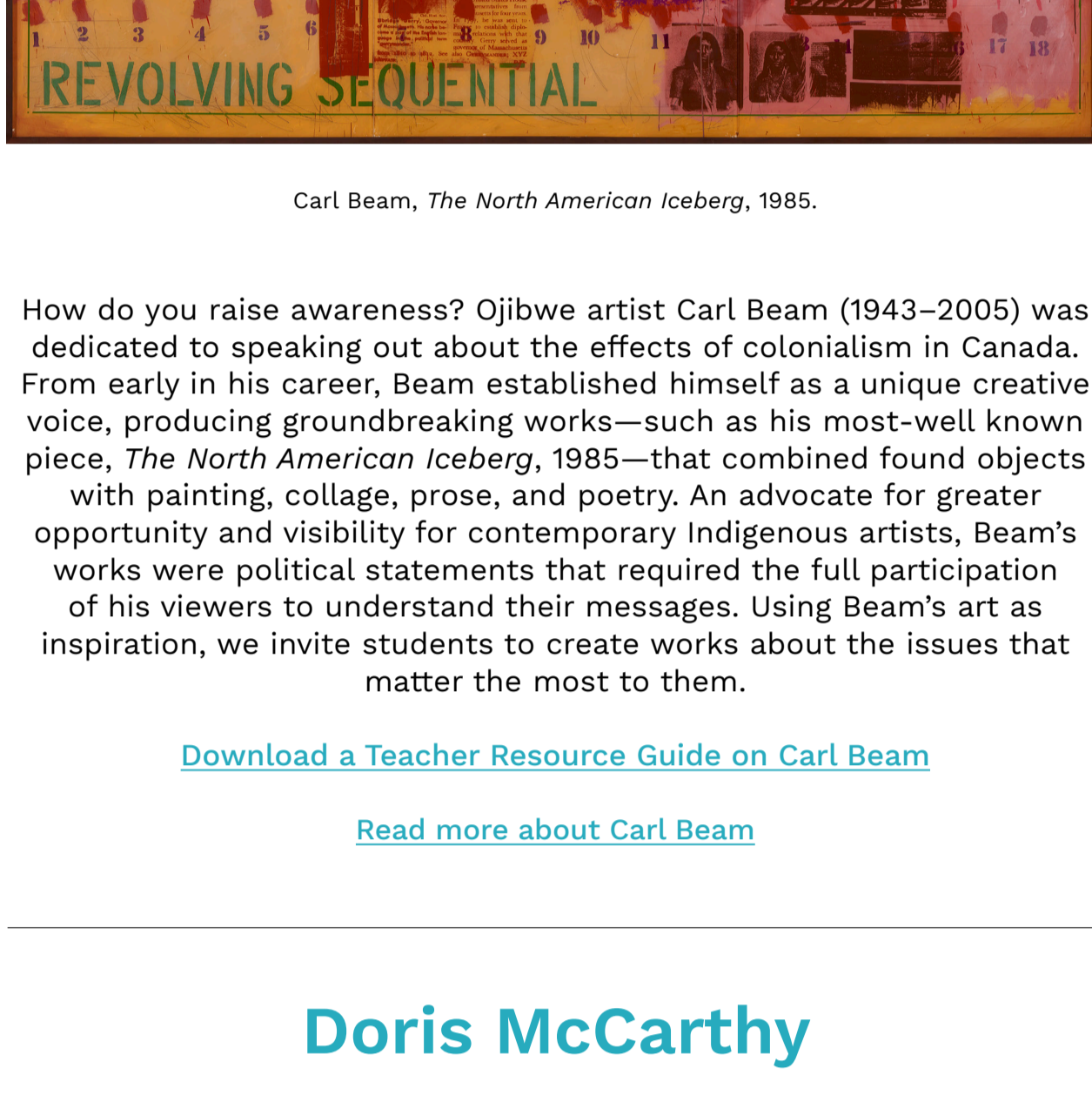
To help you incorporate this challenge into your classroom, we are sharing excerpts from this year's Student Creativity Booklet—a free, downloadable teacher resource that complements the challenge. From raising awareness to imagining the landscape, and from mixed media collage to sculpture, this year's creative prompts will motivate your students to explore Canada's rich visual heritage through some of the country's most innovative makers. We have been so inspired by the incredible talent and vision that our nation's young creators have to offer. We cannot wait to see what your students submit this year!

Visit our [Student Challenge Webpage](#) to download this year's Student Creativity Booklet, Rules & Regulations, and Submission Form.

— The Art Canada Institute Education Team

## AVENUES TO EXPLORE

## Carl Beam



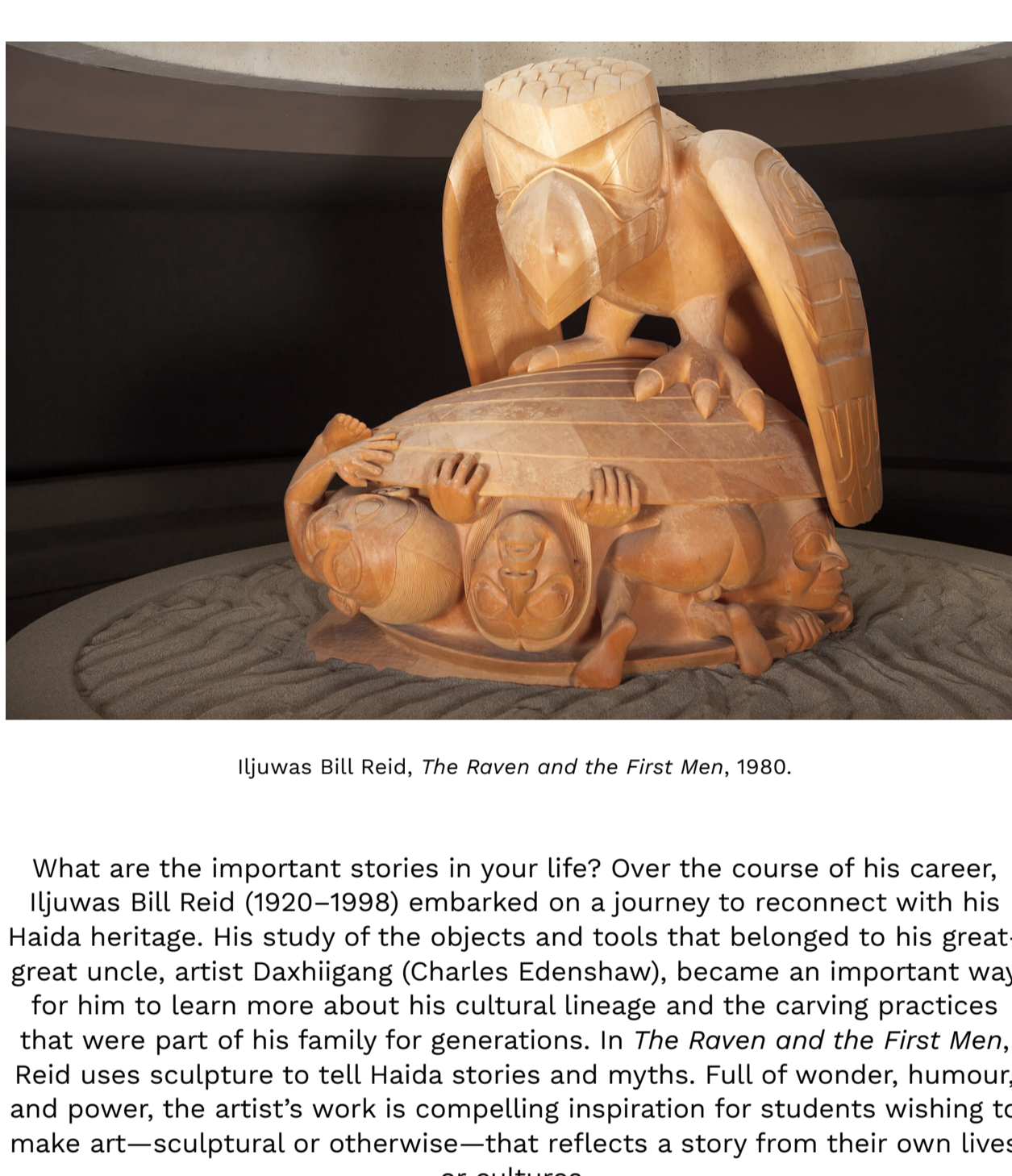
Carl Beam, *The North American Iceberg*, 1985.

How do you raise awareness? Ojibwe artist Carl Beam (1943–2005) was dedicated to speaking out about the effects of colonialism in Canada. From early in his career, Beam established himself as a unique creative voice, producing groundbreaking works—such as his most-well known piece, *The North American Iceberg*, 1985—that combined found objects with painting, collage, prose, and poetry. An advocate for greater opportunity and visibility for contemporary Indigenous artists, Beam's works were political statements that required the full participation of his viewers to understand their messages. Using Beam's art as inspiration, we invite students to create works about the issues that matter the most to them.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Carl Beam](#)

[Read more about Carl Beam](#)

## Doris McCarthy



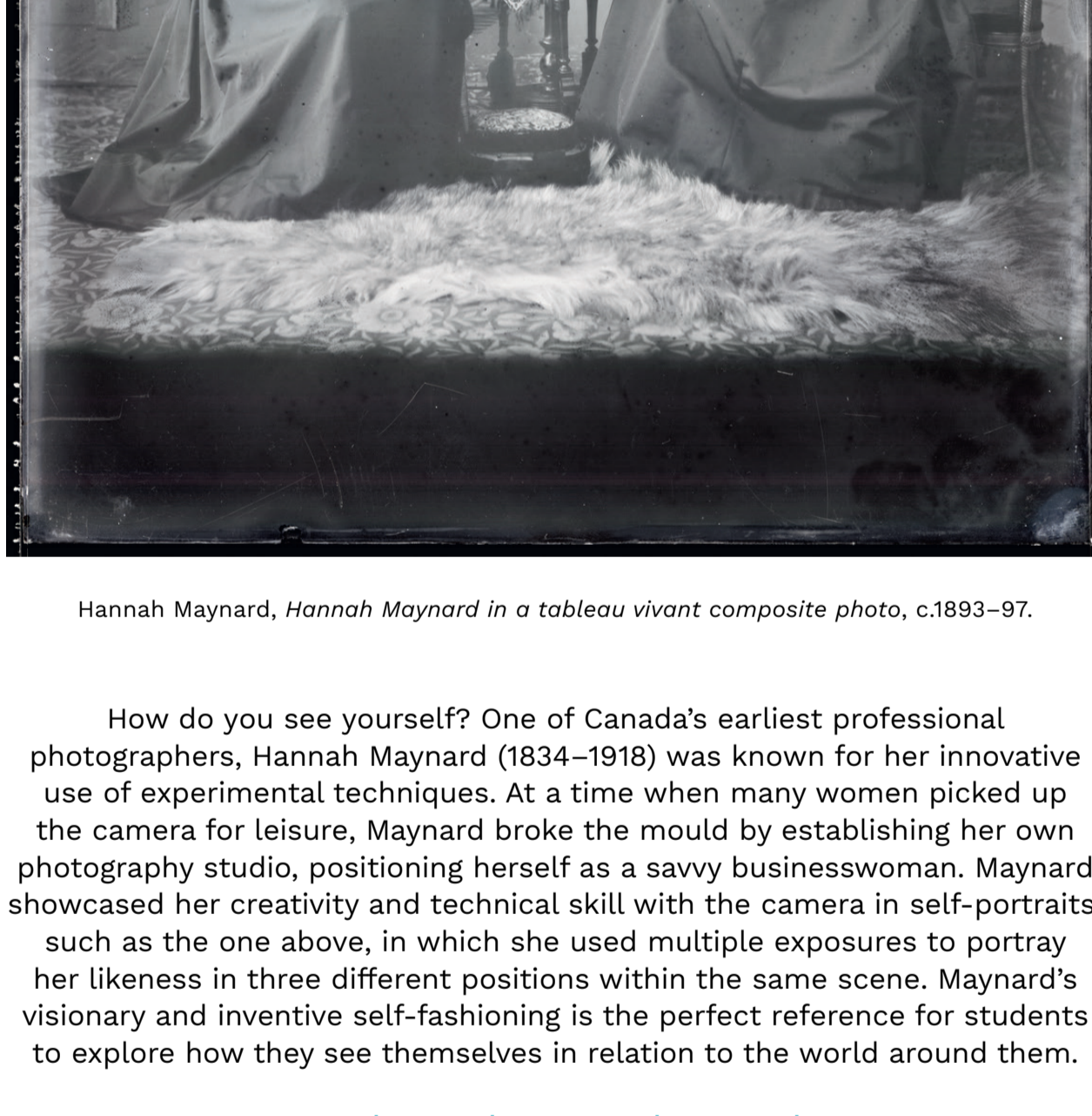
Doris McCarthy, *Iceberg Fantasy No. 9*, 1973.

How do you see the land? Landscape painter Doris McCarthy (1910–2010) had an uncanny ability to capture the unique character of the places she visited—even the ones reinvented in memory. During her prolific career, McCarthy adopted a variety of techniques, sometimes working directly in nature, and other times, painting from photographs taken during her travels. Her experience of the Canadian Arctic was the basis for the fantastical scene pictured above, featuring stark white ice floes against a background of vibrant hues of blue, green, and purple. Inspired by McCarthy's evocative works, we encourage students to reflect on the places they've seen to create imaginative landscapes based on their memories.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Doris McCarthy](#)

[Read more about Doris McCarthy](#)

## Iljuwas Bill Reid



Iljuwas Bill Reid, *The Raven and the First Men*, 1980.

What are the important stories in your life? Over the course of his career, Iljuwas Bill Reid (1920–1998) embarked on a journey to reconnect with his Haida heritage. His study of the objects and tools that belonged to his great-uncle, artist Daxhiigang (Charles Edenshaw), became an important way for him to learn more about his cultural lineage and the carving practices that were part of his family for generations. In *The Raven and the First Men*, Reid uses sculpture to tell Haida stories and myths. Full of wonder, humour, and power, the artist's work is compelling inspiration for students wishing to make art—sculptural or otherwise—that reflects a story from their own lives or cultures.

[Download a Teacher Resource Guide on Iljuwas Bill Reid](#)

[Read more about Iljuwas Bill Reid](#)

## Hannah Maynard



Hannah Maynard, *Hannah Maynard in a tableau vivant composite photo*, c.1893–97.

How do you see yourself? One of Canada's earliest professional photographers, Hannah Maynard (1834–1918) was known for her innovative use of experimental techniques. At a time when many women picked up the camera for leisure, Maynard broke the mould by establishing her own photography studio, positioning herself as a savvy businesswoman. Maynard showcased her creativity and technical skill with the camera in self-portraits, such as the one above, in which she used multiple exposures to portray her likeness in three different positions within the same scene. Maynard's visionary and inventive self-fashioning is the perfect reference for students to explore how they see themselves in relation to the world around them.

[Read more about 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.

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

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.

Visit us at [aci-iac.ca](http://aci-iac.ca)

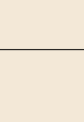
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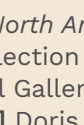
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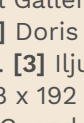
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