

Inspiring Stories

PAMA's virtual exhibition, [*Inspiring stories of women in the PAMA collections*](#), looks at twenty women and their contributions to their community. Some of the names are familiar, like Anne of Green Gables author Lucy Maud Montgomery, a regular visitor to Brampton. But many of their stories have faded from the public's memory. We hope to change that. Whether an artist, a postal worker, an entrepreneur, or a United Nations diplomat, each woman has shaped our community.

In this art-based Learning Resource, we will specifically look at the five artists and their works included in the exhibition.

Viewing the exhibition

The virtual exhibition for *Inspiring stories of women in the PAMA collections* is linked [here](#). There are 5 visual artists featured in this exhibition, with different styles and mediums.

Featured Visual Artists

Caroline Helena Wilkinson Armington
Dionne Simpson
Marion Long
Naoko Matsubara
Mary Evelyn Wrinch

Specific Curriculum Connections

Grade 4 to 6 Visual Arts

D2. Reflecting, Responding, and Analysing: apply the critical analysis process to communicate feelings, ideas, and understandings in response to a variety of art works and art experiences.

D2.1 interpret a variety of art works, and identify the feelings, issues, themes, and social concerns that they convey.

D2.2 analyse the use of elements and principles of design in a variety of artworks, and explain how they are used to communicate meaning or understanding.

D2.3 demonstrate awareness of the meaning of signs, symbols, and styles in works of art.

Let's Get Started

When you initially look at a piece of art, you are looking at the colour, composition, subject and exploring how it makes you feel. Do you like it? Why? Maybe you don't like it. Why?

Look though the virtual exhibition and use the following questions to guide your discussion about each artist and their work.

- Describe what you see. Name all the parts of the artwork that are visible including any objects, colours, people, lines, everything!
- What feelings do you experience when you look at this work of art? (invisible qualities)
- What do you think this artwork is about? Why?
- How do you think the artist felt when they created it?
- How does the artist tell a story?
- Artists use elements of art such as colour, shape, line, shading, and texture to draw attention to the main theme in their artwork. Can you see any?
- Why do you think they used these colours (or lines, textures, shapes)?
- Why do you think the artist created it?

Closer Look

A lot can be discovered when looking at art. In many cases, it tells a story about the artists or about the time the artist created it. Dive deeper into one or two pieces with the following questions.

Note* try using the Think Pair Share Strategy

- What draws you to each piece?
- How do you feel when you look at these artworks?
- Do any of these piece's comment on social concerns?
- What elements of art do you see in the piece?
- How are they used to enhance the meaning or feeling of the piece?
- Do you think the artists lived experiences contribute to their artwork?

Extension Activity

Who is inspiring to you?

Choose an individual who has impacted your life. Create a mixed media art piece that expresses your ideas. Once complete, share with your class. Ask them to interpret your work and see if it matches up with the theme you wanted to express.

Other PAMA resources to check out

Visit [PAMA's Virtual Exhibitions](#)

[PAMA Archives blog](#) about Caroline Helena Wilkinson Armington