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Group: 02030

Zin project: Frist Nations arts

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Zin Project part 1

First nations (Aboriginal) arts

The First nations are the oldest inhabitants of the American continent and the most primitive tribal groups that have retained their way of life and customs, and because of their special environment, the differences and individuality of their culture. The beauty of the handmade accessories, the unique costume culture and the sacred beliefs give a natural charm to the Indian artwork. Especially in the visual arts, most of the traditional artwork of the First Nations is handmade, including carvings, prints and textiles, as well as bone and feather work. Traditional Aboriginal artwork often includes natural landscapes and animals, plants, or everyday Aboriginal life, hunting activities, tribal activities, legendary creatures and characters, and creatures from dreams.



Take, for example, this Inuit bone carving, 'a miniature beluga carving made of bone and ivory' (Jocelyn Piirainen). Carving was an early form of artistic expression for the Aboriginal people and was often made from wood, antlers, bone, animal teeth and a variety of stones. Traditional Aboriginal carvings often depict animals, dream and legendary creatures, Aboriginal people or family members, and their belief in totems. The tools used by Aboriginal people

to carve have evolved over the years. From stone, to the hand tools brought by European settlers, and

finally to the modern power tools. As the tools changed from generation to generation the Aboriginal



carvings became more sophisticated,

like “Charlie Sivuarapik’s Lapland Longspur a black stone sculpture 1950 in the National gallery of Canada.” Not only is Aboriginal art not limited to carving, but they also have textiles, hand-printed prints and much more. For example, this pair of 20th Century "Pair of Beaded Leather Cuffs" leather



embroidered sleeves "Artist unknown, now in the National gallery of Canada. " Due to the special environment inhabited by the aboriginal people of Canada, the personality of the aboriginal culture has created their beautiful and unique clothing culture that looks like a work of art to us. The unique color combination and the use of leather make the Indian style full of exploratory charm. There are also Indian prints that map their unique beliefs and create the differences and individuality of Indian culture. The prints often feature strange creatures from dreams, sacred creatures from beliefs, animals, etc.

But with the influx of colonists and settlers, the work of indigenous artists began to receive European artistic influences and to merge with European settler culture. We now compare traditional Aboriginal art with the work of more recent Aboriginal artists, Norval Morisseau (1931-2007), Bill Reid (1920-1998), and Daphne Odjig (1919-2016).

The first is a comparison between the paintings of Norval Morisseau and the traditional paintings of the Aboriginal people. The first is a comparison between Norval Morisseau's painting "The Gathering" created in 1981 and the traditional Aboriginal painting UNTITLED (FANTASY ANIMALS) by Natsivaar in 1962.





We can see a clear contrast between the traditional works of the aborigines, which are simple and less colorful, but we can still find hints of traditional painting in the artist's work. Strange paintings with fantastical creatures. Of course, we can also see the combination of traditional Aboriginal painting and European art in the artist Norval Morisseau's paintings, the rich color scheme and abstract images have a Picasso's cubism feel.

The visual artist Daphne Odjig painting "In Tune With The Infinite" created in 2004 looks very different from the traditional Aboriginal painting style, but the elements of the painting

are the same as the traditional elements, which are all about the Aboriginal people. The rich colors are also influenced by Western



art with strong color contrasts and visually appealing lines.

Now that the section on printmaking is over let's return to the

art of engraving, which was one of the earliest forms of artistic expression. But artist Bill Reid's carvings are still very traditional, each of his works is closely related to the Aboriginal culture with elements such as totems and mythological creatures and mythological stories. For example, one of Bill's most famous works, "Raven and the First Men" in the Museum of Anthropology, tells the story of Aboriginal mythology. This work began in the fall of 1978 and took the artist two years to complete the carving, which was finally completed on April 1, 1980. Although the above three artists are more or less influenced by Western artworks, and their artworks are more refined and colorful, the themes of their artworks still have elements of aboriginal culture and traditional art.

Zin Project part 2

Aboriginal art and culture have been greatly supported and protected in Canada since the 20th century. Not only has the Canadian government supported the preservation of Aboriginal art and culture, but the support and efforts of art institutions, museums and Aboriginal artists have made it a priority. One of the supporting organizations is the Canada Council for the Arts, "The Canada Council for the Arts is committed to reaffirming and revitalizing its relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. The Canada Council believes that an approach that respects First Nations, Inuit and Métis artistic expression, cultural protocols, Indigenous rights and

Indigenous worldviews will stimulate First Nations, Inuit and Métis artists, artistic practices, and communities. Creating, Knowing and Sharing acknowledges the cultural sovereignty of Indigenous peoples and respects the concepts of First Nations, Inuit and Métis self-determination.” The breakdown of donations provided by the Canada council for the arts shows that donations for 2019-2020 total \$27.08 billion, while donations to the arts across Canada

Funding by program or strategic fund

Program or strategic fund	Amount
Explore and Create	\$77.4M
Engage and Sustain	\$73.9M
Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples	\$13.6M
Supporting Artistic Practice	\$35.6M
<u>Arts Across Canada</u>	<u>\$24.3M</u>
Arts Abroad	\$16.3M
Prizes	\$2.7M
Strategic Funds - Digital Strategy Fund	\$20.5M
Strategic Funds - Other	\$8.2M
Art Bank	\$9.7K
Canadian Commission for UNESCO	\$0.0
Public Lending Right	\$14.8M

Funding by field of practice

Field of practice	Amount
Circus Arts	\$2.5M
Dance	\$29.0M
Deaf and Disability Arts	\$3.7M
Digital Arts	\$2.4M
<u>Indigenous Arts</u>	<u>\$15.1M</u>
Inter-Arts	\$4.6M
Literature	\$32.7M
Media Arts	\$25.0M
Multidisciplinary Activities	\$12.5M
Music and Sound	\$53.2M
Theatre	\$49.6M
Visual Arts	\$40.1M
Other Discipline	\$520.3K

alone total \$2.43 billion and donations to Indigenous arts total \$1.51 billion. This is a testament to

Canada's support and protection of Indigenous arts.

5-year trend: grant amounts

Year	Amount
2015-16	\$145.7M
2016-17	\$184.8M
2017-18	\$205.4M
2018-19	\$246.0M
2019-20	\$270.8M

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is a major contributor to Aboriginal art and culture, not only through the assistance of the Canadian government, but also



through the support of Canadian museums for Aboriginal art and culture. The McMichael Canadian Art Collection has made significant contributions to Aboriginal art and culture, and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection has indicated that Aboriginal artists have contributed to the art and cultural heritage of Canada and Aboriginal peoples. Art Collection's contributions to Aboriginal people include "the traditional arts, ceremonial or religious arts, utilitarian arts,

art produced for the tourist market, as well as the contemporary or fine arts. The McMichael continues to explore current trends and recent developments in First Nations art, and focuses its collecting activities on the contemporary rather than traditional art."



In addition to these government agencies, there were also artists who supported the development and growth of Aboriginal art and culture in the early 20th century through their own efforts. The environment at the time prompted Canadian artists to come together to form THE GROUP OF SEVEN. “They were committed to exploring, through art, the unique character of the Canadian landscape. Collectively they agreed: Canada’s rugged wilderness regions needed to be recorded in a distinctive painting style. This style would break from European tradition.” Their approach stimulated the national sentiment of the Aboriginal people and led to the appreciation of Aboriginal art, which has contributed greatly to the development and status of Aboriginal art today. Today, these artists have become some of the most famous artists in Canada. For many people, especially Aboriginal people, their work symbolizes a distinctly Canadian identity and Aboriginal cultural heritage. These artists include, Daphne Odjig, Norval Morrisseau, Franklin Carmichael, Lawren Harris, Edwin Holgate, etc. The reason that the government and Aboriginal artists are now promoting Aboriginal art and culture is because people realize that Aboriginal art and culture is Canada's cultural heritage and that if it is not protected it will disappear. Recognizing the seriousness of the situation, there is strong support for Aboriginal artists to form organizations and spread Aboriginal art and culture, and Canadian art and culture, to Canadians, Aboriginal people and the world. As Canada has been influenced by European culture and the assimilation of most of its civilizations,

customs, traditions and artistic cultures are slowly disappearing, the Aboriginal artists want to draw the attention of the Aboriginal people and others through the most direct visual art. In order to draw the attention of fellow Aboriginals and Canadians to the fact that their native cultures are slowly being replaced or even disappearing. As a result, the artists formed THE GROUP OF SEVEN to reflect the growing nationalist sentiment. In order to better communicate the uniqueness of the Canadian landscape, artists have created works in a variety of styles and techniques, even drawing on traditional Western elements such as Cubism, Visualism, Abstraction and Impressionism. For inspiration, many have also sought out their roots and the legends, spiritual beliefs, and traditional arts known to Canada's First Nations, and have modernized Canadian First Nations art by blending their traditional art culture with Western painting in order to expand the depth and breadth of First Nations art significantly.



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