

ARTS

Painting

The earliest painting by the European settlers was devoted to religious subjects, the painters being either French professional artists or members of Roman Catholic religious orders. With the arrival of the English, painting took a more secular turn. Artists, like Cornelius Krieghoff and Paul Kane, in the 19th century, recorded the disappearing way of life of the Quebec *habitant* and the Plains Indian. Portrait painting also enjoyed a popularity — especially the work of Quebecois Antoine Plamondon.

The first professional art association, The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, was founded in 1880.

In the early 1900's, a distinctively Canadian school emerged, inspired by Tom Thomson and led by J.E.H. MacDonald. It brought a fresh perspective to the painting of Canadian landscape. In 1920, seven artists adopted the name "Group of Seven": Franklin Carmichael, Lawren Harris, A.Y. Jackson, Franz Johnston, Arthur Lismer, J.E.H. MacDonald, and Frederick Varley.

Others who became associated with the Group, or who flourished independently, were: A.J. Casson, Lionel LeMoine Fitzgerald, Edwin Holgate, Emily Carr, David Milne, Clarence Gagnon, Albert Robinson and John Lyman.

Well-known contemporary painters include Alex Colville, Harold Town, Paul-Emile Borduas, William Ronald, Jean-Paul Riopelle, and Léon Bellefleur.

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