

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# ARTSKOOL



AN EAST END ARTS STUDY GUIDE FOR KIDS AND KIDS AT HEART



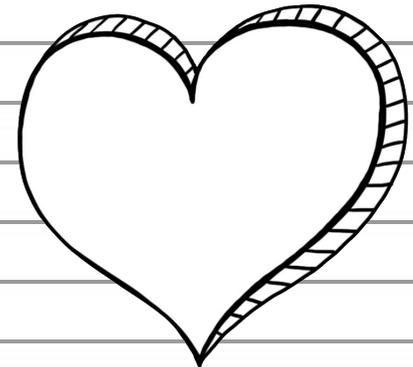
## ABOUT WOMEN PAINT RIVERSIDE:

- ➔ **WHAT?** An open air gallery of 21 murals that celebrate our environment, our waterways, and the traditional keepers of those waterways.
- ➔ **WHEN?** All of the murals were created and completed in September, 2021.
- ➔ **WHERE?** Go see them at 1 Hamilton St., just North of Queen St. E at the laneway.
- ➔ **WHO?** You! And bring your family and friends to see the murals too!
- ➔ **WHY?** This program was created to provide an opportunity for artistic expression for women, Two Spirit and non-binary muralists, and to show the incredible power and beauty of the water that has supported human life, and the urgency required to protect it.



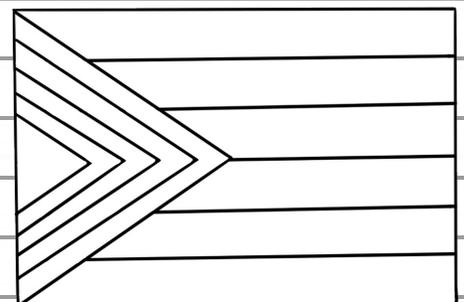
## LET'S TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO THIS...

Can you feel the shift? The Don River is at the heart of a huge city project looking at the ecology and the environment of the floodplain that will actually change the shape of the river. Even though we live in this big city, we are lake people, and our lives are directed by the currents of change in those lakes and rivers. These murals reflect some of these changes. These can be seen as enormous and powerful, or tiny and personal moments shared between people beside the water that forms the geography of this place we call home.



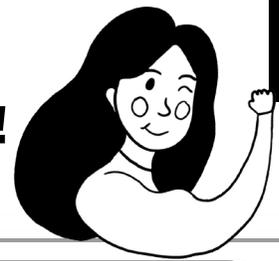
Fill in the heart shape with water designs.

Women Paint Riverside is a series of murals created by women and other **gender marginalized** mural artists as part of an exciting laneway transformation in the Riverside neighbourhood of Toronto. All of the muralists are from diverse communities with a spotlight on those who are **BIPOC: Black, Indigenous and People of Colour**. A non-binary person is someone who does not identify as exclusively a male or a female. Someone who is non-binary might feel like a mix of genders, or like they have no gender at all.



Colour in the Pride flag! There are 10 colours in total!

# LET'S LEARN ABOUT WOMEN IN THE ARTS!



When you visit famous art museums and browse art history books you may notice a lack of women artists in the mix. Learning about the work and lives of artists who are women helps to spotlight their rightful place in the art world.

For Black women artists, the 1960's, 70's and 80's were a time to increase equality in the art world and beyond. Women have been the creative force behind Indigenous art for a very long time yet their individual contributions have been mostly unrecognized.

If you were not acknowledged for the important work you had done, how would you feel about it? What would you do about it? Let's learn the names of some important Canadian Women artists and then explore and be inspired by a selection of the new murals in Riverside!



Michele Wallace (center) and Faith Ringgold (right), Black Emergency Cultural Coalition (BECC) protest at the Whitney Museum, New York, January 31, 1971 (photograph © Jan Van Raay).

## REMEMBER MY NAME...



1



### Maud Lewis (1903 - 1970)

**Where they worked:** She lived in a tiny 15-square-meter, one room house in icy-cold Nova Scotia, with no running water, electricity, and a broken chimney

**What medium they worked in:** Oil paints. Maud would paint on any surface she could find in her house. She painted both inside and outside her home—on walls, floors and household objects.

**What were their challenges:** Maud endured a lifetime of **hardship** that included poverty and congenital disorders (like twisted fingers and hunched shoulders). However she always saw the beauty and abundance that nature offers.

**Your challenge:** Describe Maud Lewis in one word \_\_\_\_\_

2



### Marcelle Ferron (1924 - 2001)

**Where they worked:** Louiseville and Montreal, Quebec

**What medium they worked in:** Oil on canvas and stained glass art

**What were their challenges:** At the age of three, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis and spent a lot of time in hospital. This led her to believe how important life and living well is! After studying art for a while in Montreal, she was determined to change the way people looked at modern art. She moved to Paris, France, and then back to Quebec, all along the way working to secure a place for women in the arts. She was an activist who inspired a whole generation of artists.

**Your challenge:** Describe Marcelle Ferron in one word \_\_\_\_\_

3

**Daphne Odjig (1919 - 2016)**

**Where they worked:** Toronto, Ontario; British Columbia, Winnipeg, Alberta

**What medium they worked in:** Acrylic and graphite on canvas and ivory wove paper. Daphne's style developed to include her indigenous heritage with the modernist techniques and her vibrantly coloured and dark outlined work portrayed indigenous mythology, colonial history, and personal and collective memories.

**What were their challenges:** She had to drop out of school at age 13 due to her struggle with rheumatic fever. Daphne's mother and grandfather passed away when she was 18 which led her to move to Toronto. It was there where she first encountered racism. She founded the group known as the "Indigenous Group of Seven". She went on to open the first Canadian gallery exclusively representing indigenous art.

**Your challenge:** Describe Daphne Odjig in one word \_\_\_\_\_

4

**Emily Carr (1871 - 1945)**

**Where they worked:** Victoria, British Columbia

**What medium they worked in:** In her early years, Emily painted in watercolour, using ink and pencil and later she used oil on canvas and paper and charcoal on paper. Along with the Group of Seven, Emily was one of the most original Canadian painters of that time.

**What were their challenges:** She did not experience a lot of support from family with her desire to paint. Emily also struggled with her mental health and was known to be a rule breaker. She swore and smoked, walked around with a pet monkey on a chain and a rat in her pocket and had a hot temper! Emily persisted in following her passion for painting western landscapes and Indigenous culture.

**Your challenge:** Describe Emily Carr in one word \_\_\_\_\_

5

**Annie Pootoogook (1969 - 2016)**

**Where they worked:** Cape Dorset, an Inuit settlement located on Dorset Island in the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut. She moved to Montreal, Quebec and then Ottawa, Ontario.

**What medium they worked in:** Her drawings of daily life were done in pen and coloured pencils.

**What were their challenges:** In the beginning she was told "This stuff's never going to sell" and "Stop doing it." She didn't give up. The story of Annie's life was coloured by despair and tragedy, but also by extraordinary talent, positivity, strength and creativity.

**Your challenge:** Describe Annie Pootoogook in one word \_\_\_\_\_



6



**Prudence Heward (1896 - 1947)**

**Where they worked:** Montreal, Quebec

**What medium they worked in:** Prudence was associated with a style called Expressionism. She specialized in portraits of women, even though landscape painting was popular. She painted independent, brooding figures of women with bold and rich colours of oil paint on canvas.

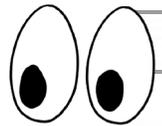
**What were their challenges:** Prudence Heward had poor health since childhood. She suffered from asthma her whole life. The frequent attacks forced Heward to stop painting for periods of time. She was often frustrated and discouraged. She faced challenges having her choice of subjects accepted and worked hard for gender equality in the art world.

**Your challenge:** Describe Prudence Heward in one word \_\_\_\_\_



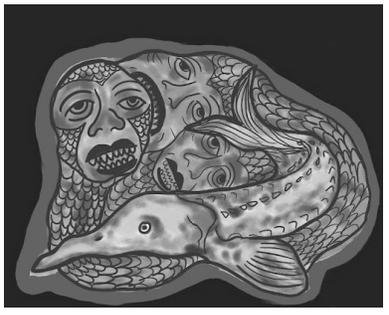
**Your final challenge:** Describe YOURSELF in one word \_\_\_\_\_

**LET'S EXPLORE WOMEN PAINT RIVERSIDE!**



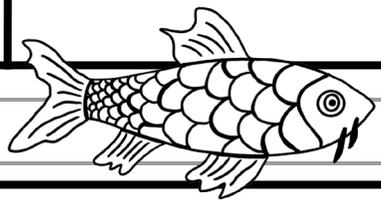
Now here are some of the artists and their murals as part of Women Paint Riverside! You can find these murals and more (21 in total) in the laneway between Hamilton and Munroe Streets (just north of Queen Street East).

**Check out Cedar-Eve's Water Creatures!**



"The image I have chosen to paint is based off the stories I've heard about Sturgeons in the waters of Georgian Bay; the creatures are **shapeshifting** between human and animal. It is an orb of energy, they are interconnected ebbing and flowing together in the water-world."

**Work Box: Draw what you think lives below the water where we can't see!**



**Celebrate urban biodiversity and native mammal species with Merryn Connelly-Miller!**



“While we settlers are responsible for the invasion of these natural areas, we can also take responsibility in protecting and “rewilding” these important places.”

**Fact Box: These are some invasive plant species that endanger our ecosystem:**



**Norway Maples**

**Phragmites**

**Dog-Strangling Vine**

**Go and see what Moonlight Murals Collective created!**



Moonlight Murals Collective explores states of water. “As water is the only common substance that is naturally found as a solid, liquid or gas, we plan to personify water as 3 women-identifying figures.”

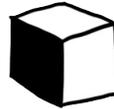
**Work Box: Match the states of matter with the states of water that the figures represent**

**Gas**



**Ice**

**Solid**



**Water**

**Liquid**



**Steam**

**Enjoy artist Haenahhh’s interpretation of Riverside!**

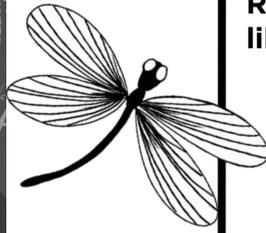


“I tried to visit my experiences and memories of Riverside and Don River.... Walking and bicycling along the water... take a quick break admiring the nature around the neighbourhood, it makes you forget that you’re in the city.”

**Work Box: Remember a time when you explored near the water and write your memory here!**



**Discover Claire Browne's Ecosystem!**

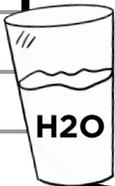


Artist Claire Browne imagines dark hands creating a waterway path in their mural. "These hands are both cutting a bath for the lively waterway to travel but also allow for the life-giving water to access plant ecosystems."

**Work Box:** Draw a scene of the happy Don River from above as if you were flying high, like a dragonfly!



**Artist Hello Kirsten examines the water that comes from our taps!**



**Fact Box:** The RC Harris Water Treatment Plant in the east end produces 30% of Toronto's water! Built from 1932 to 1941, it is the largest collection of beautiful Art Deco buildings. It's also called "The Palace of Purification" or the Waterworks. Mr. Harris wanted clean water for the people of Toronto and Ashbridge's Bay was a swampy, open sewer. Yuck. Immigrants to Canada played a huge role in the building of this and many, many others in the entire city of Toronto.



**Go see Shawna Howe's scene of healing water!**

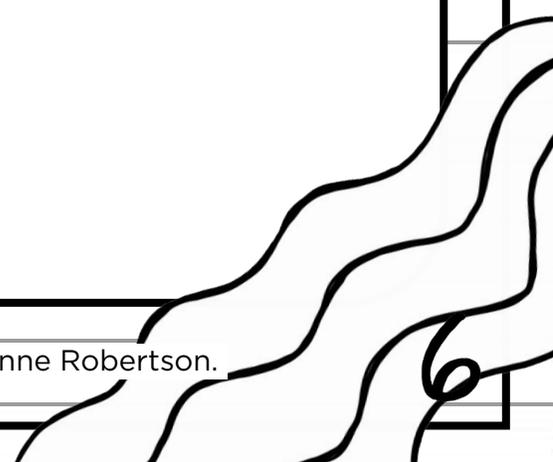


Shawna Howe was inspired by their Grandmother, their Nokomis. "We need to care for each other during these times, and everybody has different roles to play. How I extend my voice, my care and love is via my art. So this piece is an embodiment of that care, as I wanted to capture the healing essence of water, and share that with my kin."

**Work Box:** Name something or someone you love and want to look after dearly. Do you have someone you look up to or admire? What special story have they shared with you? Write about it here:



**SPECIAL BOOK RECOMMENDATION:** The Water Walker, by Joanne Robertson.



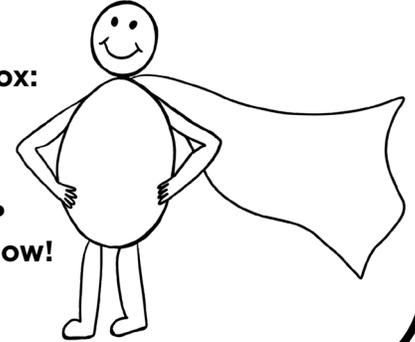
**Stand Strong with Monica's Women Warriors!**



Monica Wickeler is an **LGBTQ+** public artist who in this mural aims to bring together the importance of "water as an element and female strength as an asset with my imagery of a row of women in different sizes, shapes, and diversities linked arms, standing strong...."

**Fact Box:** In the 1970s women artists protested at Museums that put on exhibitions that often didn't include many women artists and almost no black women artists.

**Think & Act Box:**  
How do you stand when you want to feel powerful?  
Do the pose now!

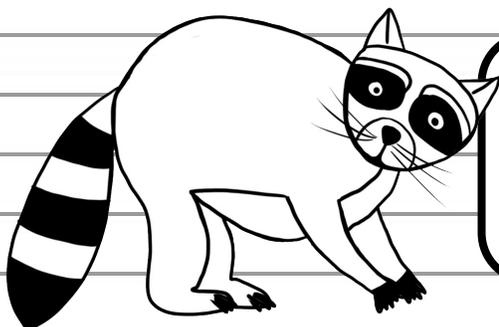


**See an Optimistic Yong by artist Victoria Day!**



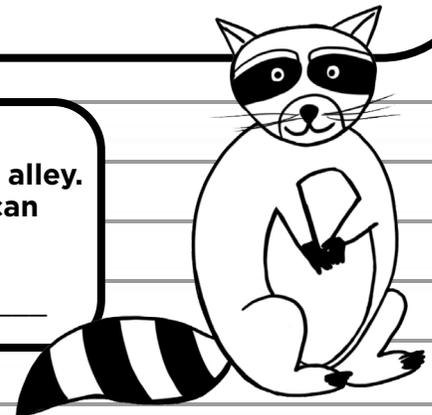
This piece brings optimism to our future! There are better days ahead for **racial inclusion** and better times ahead for the water conditions in the Don River! Victoria says, "In Korean folklore, the river is seen as the border between two worlds, so I approached this mural from the other side - from a world where folklore is fact. My design is of a Korean dragon, called a Yong. Unlike European dragons of fire and destruction, Yongs are associated with water and prosperity. They are wise and **benevolent** serpent-like creatures, and bringers of rain. Yong bestows good luck to any who see them, which is just what we need right now."

**Work Box:** Everybody needs the protection of a dragon, draw yours!



**P.S. There are many racoons throughout the murals in the alley. How many painted racoons can you find on your journey?**

\_\_\_\_\_



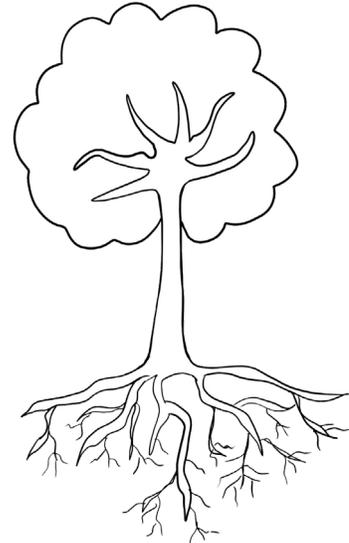
**Understand our connection to the earth from artist Mo Thunder!**



“We are the earth, the earth is us.  
Our ancestors are here -  
The mud  
Those rocks  
Standing stones  
The upright trees  
The stillness of the sky  
And the smokey sun  
Thunderers revive and bring healing  
So flowing rivers splash across our  
bodies and rush through us.  
We are the water, the water is us.”

**Think box: Question: Do you think trees need water to survive? How do you think trees get their water? Answer: Trees need water to survive, and the roots help the trees suck up water from the ground! The roots also hold the tree firmly in the ground so you can't push them over easily.**

**Stand tall.  
We are not pushovers either!  
We are strong and firmly rooted in family, community and love.**



**WORDS, WORDS, WORDS!**

**Gender Marginalized:** all gender identities which have been oppressed by those in power throughout history

**Hardship:** difficulties, like poverty or suffering

**Shapeshifting:** In traditional mythology and folklore, it is the ability of a being to physically transform into another form or being

**Biodiversity:** the rich variety of life on Earth

**Art Deco:** a style of decorative art, design and architecture of the 1920s and 1930s

**Immigrants:** a person who moves permanently to another country from his or her birthplace

**Kin:** a person's relatives

**LGBTQ+:** Stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer

**Queer:** People use this word as a way to identify with and celebrate people of all gender identities and all the ways people love each other

**Racial inclusion:** means access for diverse groups of people to decision-making, resources, and opportunity

**Benevolent:** someone (or something!) who is kind and fair



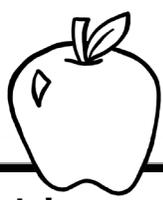
**FEATURED BOOK!**

In the book **Tar Beach** by Faith Ringgold, the main character Cassie Louise Lightfoot has a dream “to be free to go wherever she wants for the rest of her life.” One night, up on “tar beach,” the rooftop of her family’s Harlem apartment building, her dreams come true. The stars lift her up, and she flies over the city, claiming the buildings and the city as her own. As Cassie learns, anyone can fly. “All you need is somewhere to go you can’t get to any other way. The next thing you know, you’re flying among the stars.”



**➔ ANSWER KEY: Question on page 5:** Ice:Solid; Steam:Gas; Water:Liquid.

# HOMework



More to Read at the Toronto Public Library on Women in the Arts!

1. Women In Art: 50 fearless creatives who inspired the world By Rachel Igotofsky
2. Anthology of amazing women: trailblazers who dared to be different By Sandra Lawrence
3. Standing on her shoulders : a celebration of women By Monica Clark-Robinson
4. Women's art work : more than 30 female artists who changed the world By Sophia Bennett
5. Art against the odds : from slave quilts to prison paintings By Susan Goldman Rubin
6. Women of the Harlem Renaissance By Lisa Beringer McKissack
7. Roots and wings : how Shahzia Sikander became an artist By Shahzia Sikander
8. Good night stories for rebel girls. 2 By Elena Favilli
9. Ninth Street women : Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and Helen Frankenthaler : five painters and the movement that changed modern art By Mary Gabriel
10. Women artists A to Z By Melanie LaBarge



## ★ THE ART OF BEING ★

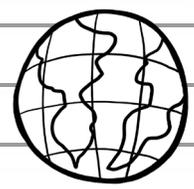
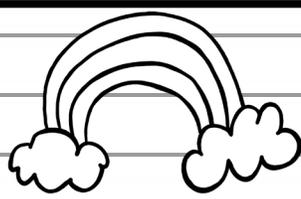
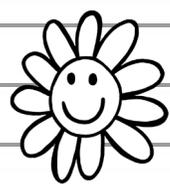
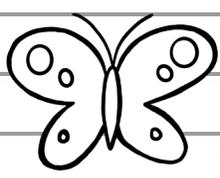
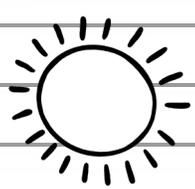
The world will be in your hands one day. Look for two hopes in each volume of Artskool!  
Let's find some...

### Mindfulness

Own your feelings, and acknowledge them. If you have negative thoughts about a problem you can't fix, practice letting go of them. When you feel joy, embrace it. Feelings aren't right or wrong — you choose how you manage them.

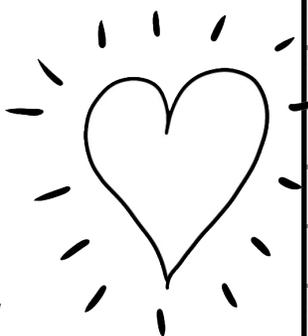
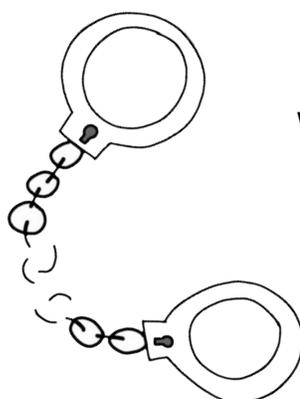
### Practicality

When you're trying something new, give yourself time to practice and learn. Don't become angry with yourself if you aren't improving as quickly as you wanted. If you keep working, you will get to where you want to go.



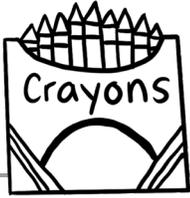


I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE...

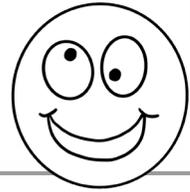
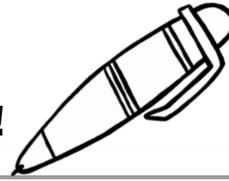


P C L A G X R E V O L U T I O N E V Y V  
 R O O X L T N K F Z K T P M I N Q R J C  
 S E S M R V K E Y P S S A F E L U N V F  
 G C V T P S E R R I D C Q G I H A R Y R  
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|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Post Impressionist | Graffiti Writer | Social Justice | Compassionate |
| Civil Rights       | Environment     | Revitalize     | Hard-won      |
| Revolution         | Freedom         | Action         | Women         |
| Safe               | Trompe-l'oeil   | Equality       | Woke          |



# NOTES & DOODLES!



A large, empty rounded rectangular box intended for students to write notes or create doodles.

