The Group of Seven (artists)

In the 1920s, seven artists—Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer, Frank Johnston, A. J. Casson, Franklin Carmichael, J. E. H. MacDonald, and Frederick Varley—formed a group of artists who sought to create a distinctly Canadian form of art. They were known for their paintings inspired by the Canadian landscape, and initiated the first major Canadian national art movement.

History

The Group of Seven was founded in 1920 by Lawren Harris and Franklin Carmichael, who were joined by A. Y. Jackson, Alexander Young Jackson, Lawren Harris, and after 1920 by A.Y. Jackson and S.A. Yorke. The Group began to call itself the Canadian Group of Painters or Group of Seven in 1920.

The group exhibited at the MacBride Art Gallery in 1920 and the Art Canada Institute in 1921. The first major exhibition of the Group was held at the Art Gallery of Toronto in 1921, and the group continued to exhibit together in various venues throughout Ontario.

Collections

The Group of Seven was supported by a number of institutional supporters and private collectors. The National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa, the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario, and the Beaver Hall Group in Winnipeg all had a history of showing with the Group of Seven.

Legacy

The Group of Seven has received criticism for its reinforcement of a particular interpretation of Canadian identity. However, the group also helped to establish a Canadian art movement and paved the way for future generations of Canadian artists.
On year 2012–2013, Royal Canadian Mint issued 7 pure silver 1-oz coins, each one reproduced one painting of a member:

- F.H. Varley "Stormy Weather, Georgian Bay" (April 2012)
- Arthur Lismer "Nova Scotia Fishing Village" (July 2012)
- Franklin Carmichael "Houses, Cobalt" (October 2012)
- Lawren S. Harris "Toronto Street, Winter Morning" (January 2013)
- Franz Johnston "The Guardian of the Gorge" (March 2013)
- J.E.H. MacDonald "Sumacs" (June 2013)
- A.Y. Jackson "Saint-Tite-des-Caps" (September 2013)

See also

- Emily Carr
- Indian Group of Seven
- Ralph Wallace Burton

References

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Further reading


External links

- Wikimedia Commons has media related to Group of Seven (artists).h
- CBC Digital Archives - The Group of Seven: Painters in the Wilderness
- Group of Seven Gallery - McMichael Gallery
- The Canadian Encyclopedia, The Group of Seven