

Poll

Nude painting Dark Girl has schools warning parents in Kelowna, B.C.

Dark Girl by Canadian artist Prudence Heward, dated 1935, part of rare collection from University of Toronto

By Maryse Zeidler, Daybreak South, [CBC News](#) Posted: Jun 03, 2015 5:33 PM PT Last Updated: Jun 04, 2015 6:31 AM PT

A painting of a nude woman is causing problems for B.C.'s Kelowna Art Gallery, apparently prompting nearby schools to warn parents and suggest it be covered up for student visits.

The painting, called *Dark Girl* by Canadian artist Prudence Heward, was painted in 1935 and is part of an exhibition of rare paintings from the University of Toronto called [A Story of Canadian Art](#), which runs until July 19.

- [See a larger image of the Dark Girl painting](#)

Executive Director of the gallery, Nataley Nagy says the gallery works closely with schools and provides them with study guides noting any sensitive art pieces.

"Two schools in particular felt it was important to let the parents know and let the parents decide whether or not they wanted their children to see nudity in art," said Nagy.

The study guides the art gallery provides do suggest ways to handle sensitive material with children, said Nagy.

In this case, it suggested teaching visitors about the historical importance of nudity in art, as well as other aspects of the painting.

"There was some suggestion that we cover it up or remove children from the tour," said Nagy. "We decided that's really not an appropriate way to handle it."

To offer alternatives, the gallery has made other tours available with less controversial material — an option Nagy says was pursued by one school.

[Take our poll on whether or not kids should be allowed to see the painting Dark Girl](#)

- June 4 2015 9:30 AM

Should kids be allowed to see the painting Dark Girl?

83%

Absolutely

419 vote(s)

15%

Yes, but with some guidance

74 vote(s)

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