

**A Story of Canadian Art
As told by the Hart House Collection**

January 15 to March 7, 2015
University of Toronto Art Centre

Curated by Dr. Christine Boyanoski
Organized by the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto
*** Now available – 123 page colour catalogue**



IMAGE CREDIT: Jack Humphrey, *Draped Head*, 1931. Hart House Collection, University of Toronto. Gift of the Graduating Year of 1937.

The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery and University of Toronto Art Centre are proud to present a major, national touring exhibition featuring forty-one works drawn from the celebrated Hart House Collection of Canadian art. After critically acclaimed stops in Alberta and Ontario, “A Story of Canadian Art” will open at the University of Toronto Art Centre in an expanded form in January 2015 before travelling to British Columbia and beyond. This will be the first opportunity since 1987 for the University of Toronto community to view this collection as a whole.

Showcasing paintings by renowned artists such as Emily Carr, Lawren Harris, Prudence Heward, A.Y. Jackson, J.E.H. MacDonald, David Milne, Liliias Torrance Newton, Tom Thomson, and F.H. Varley the majority of works in the exhibition feature classic images of the Canadian landscape, coast to coast, and were acquired between 1921 and 1950.

The exhibition also represents an important chapter in the role of collecting, and explores how collections contribute to the shaping of both art history and national identity. Hart House was commissioned by the Massey family, and gifted to the University of Toronto in 1919 as a cultural centre where students, faculty, and the broader public could mingle and converse. The Hart House Art Committee, comprised of students, artists, faculty, and staff at the University of Toronto, began collecting art with the purchase of A.Y. Jackson’s *Georgian Bay* in 1922, and continued to focus on the work of

the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, as well as the Beaver Hall Group and Canadian Group of Painters, through the first half of the twentieth century. The art collection rapidly gained a national and international reputation, with works being loaned to important shows of Canadian art at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC, and the Tate Gallery in London, UK. These shows, and the critical reviews that were distributed across Canada, helped to define Canadian art at that time.

While individual works from the collection continue to be regularly included in published histories of Canadian art and museum exhibitions, they are rarely seen together. *A Story of Canadian Art* is the first opportunity in over thirty years for Canadian audiences to see some of the most important works from the collection, and to learn about a significant chapter in the formation of the story of Canadian art and cultural history in the first half of the twentieth century.

A Story of Canadian Art: As told by the Hart House Art Collection is curated by Dr. Christine Boyanoski, and organized by the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House. The exhibition continues its national tour through 2016.

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