

Introduction to the  
Library Collection

RESEARCH PHOTOGRAPHS

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National Gallery of Canada Library and Archives

Library Collection 10 MAY - 31 AUGUST 2000



# RESEARCH PHOTOGRAPHS

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THE PERMANENT COLLECTIONS OF FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHS HELD BY THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA AND THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY ARE OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE. APART FROM THESE WORKS OF ART, THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA LIBRARY HOLDS NEARLY 360,000 RESEARCH PHOTOGRAPHS. THE LIBRARY COLLECTION DOCUMENTS THE COLLECTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY AS WELL AS ART WORKS BY CANADIAN AND NON-CANADIAN ARTISTS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO THE PRESENT HELD IN NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN COLLECTIONS. SEVERAL OUTSTANDING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF RESEARCH PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN ACQUIRED, INCLUDING THE *GERNSHEIM CORPUS PHOTOGRAPHICUM* (COMPLETE TO 1984), THE *DECIMAL INDEX OF THE ART OF THE LOW COUNTRIES*, AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS THAT ACCOMPANY *THE ILLUSTRATED BARTSCH*. THE IMAGE MICROFORM COLLECTION INCLUDES SUCH TITLES AS THE *MARBURGER INDEX*, *THE WITT LIBRARY*, AND *THE CONWAY LIBRARY*.

Included in the Library's collection is an important group of original and, in some cases, rare photographs. Many of these document the history of the National Gallery of Canada, its buildings, exhibitions, personalities, and special events. The hanging committee for the inaugural Royal Canadian Academy of Arts exhibition posed for William Notman (1826–1891) in 1880; this group portrait [3] is the earliest known photograph related to the National Gallery of Canada. Many early interior views of the Gallery were recorded by the well-known Ottawa photographer William James Topley (1843–1930). Topley photographed several annual exhibitions of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts held at the Gallery in the 1890s. The Library owns one original Topley photograph from this series, a view of the 1894 exhibition [5]. The Topley collection is housed at the National Archives of Canada; the Library has acquired copy photographs of all material related to the National Gallery.

The Gallery itself began photographing its permanent collection galleries, special exhibitions, and staff in the 1920s. Installation views of important exhibitions mounted outside Ottawa, such as the *Canadian Section of Fine Arts: British Empire Exhibition*, held in 1924 at Wembley Park, London [16], were also collected. Exhibition openings and special events began to be documented with greater regularity in the 1950s. Many of these files feature candid views of artists, critics,

and politicians, such as the 1961 visit of Jacqueline Kennedy to the Gallery [43] and the 1969 National Gallery Association Ball attended by Pierre Trudeau and Margaret Sinclair [52].

Several hundred negatives from the 1920s and 1930s were on nitrate film base, which proved to be flammable when stored without proper temperature and humidity controls. In 1978, shortly after a disastrous fire involving nitrate film stock at George Eastman House in Rochester, New York, it was decided to make two prints from each nitrate negative and to dispose of the collection. The portrait of Kathleen Fenwick [21], Curator of Prints and Drawings from 1928 to 1968, is an example of a print produced in 1978 from the original 1936 nitrate negative.

Portraits of artists are a major collecting interest of the Library. The core of this collection was acquired in the early 1930s from the Toronto-based photographer M.O. Hammond (1876–1934). Hammond photographed many leading artists of the period and also copied original photographs of important Canadian artists of the late nineteenth century, such as Antoine Plamondon [1]. Hammond's negatives are now located at the Archives of Ontario in Toronto. The Library holds works by other celebrated photographers; Yousuf Karsh, for example, is represented here by a portrait of Alan Jarvis [36], Director of the National Gallery from 1955 to 1959.

In addition to studio portraits, informal photographs of artists can often provide a rich source of research material. The photograph taken in 1914 of the Lismer and Varley families camping in Algonquin Park [11] is an example of a family snapshot that has become a very popular image with publishers.

Researchers are welcome to explore the Library's photograph collection. Copies of original material may be obtained for study or publication purposes, subject to copyright restrictions.

## Checklist

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1  | Antoine Plamondon, c. 1865. Copy by M.O. Hammond after the original.  | 11 | Algonquin Park, October 1914. Back row, left to right: Tom Thomson, A.Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer. Front row, left to right: Fred Varley, Marjorie Lismer, Ethel Lismer.  |
| 2  | Thomas Sully, c. 1865. Photograph: Broadbent & Co., Philadelphia.   | 12 | Horatio Walker, 1915. Photograph: M.O. Hammond.   |
| 3  | Hanging committee of the first exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, Ottawa, March 1880. Seated, left to right: Henry Sandham, James Griffiths. Standing, left to right: Robert Harris, Thomas S. Scott, Napoléon Bourassa. Photograph: William Notman. Gift of Margaret Griffiths, 1953. | 13 | Eric Brown, Director, National Gallery of Canada, 1920s. Photograph: De Camp.   |
| 4  | A. Dickson Patterson, c. 1882. Photograph: Eldridge Stanton, Toronto.   | 14 | Jury of the <i>Canadian Section of Fine Arts: British Empire Exhibition</i> , Wembley Park, London, 1924. Seated in foreground, left to right: Clarence Gagnon, Florence Wyle, F.S. Challener, Horatio Walker, Franklin Brownell, Wyly Grier. Standing, left to right: R.S. Hewton, Eric Brown, Arthur Lismer, H.O. McCurry. Background: Herbert Walker, George Harbour. Photograph: Harry Hands. |
| 5  | <i>Royal Canadian Academy of Arts: 15th Annual Exhibition</i> , Victoria Hall (National Gallery of Canada), 1894. Photograph: Topley Studios, Ottawa.   | 15 | The Wembley Jury in a less solemn mood, 1924. Photograph: Harry Hands.  |
| 6  | Elmwood, boyhood home of William Blair Bruce. Photograph: William Blair Bruce.  | 16 | <i>Canadian Section of Fine Arts: British Empire Exhibition</i> , Wembley Park, London, 1924. Photograph: Elliott & Fry, London.  |
| 7  | Tom Thomson, c. 1907. Photograph: W.D. McVey, Toronto. Gift of Dr. C.S. Sanborn, Windsor, Ontario.  | 17 | <i>Canadian West Coast Art</i> , Victoria Memorial Museum (National Gallery of Canada), 1927 (printed 1978).  |
| 8  | Canadian artists at Grip Ltd., Toronto, 1911. Standing, left to right: Leonard Rossell, Stanley Kemp, unidentified person, Arthur Lismer, Fred Varley. Seated, left to right: unidentified person, Tom Thomson, J.E.H. MacDonald, two unidentified people.  | 18 | Monument to Senator L.O. David, Notre-Dame des Neiges Cemetery, Montreal. Sculpture by Henri Hébert. Inscribed <i>To Eric Brown / Director of the National gallery / with best regards Henri Hébert / 1929</i> . Photograph: Bennett.   |
| 9  | Painting gallery, third floor, Victoria Memorial Museum (National Gallery of Canada), 1913. Photograph: William James Topley.   | 19 | Emily Carr, 1930. Photograph: M.O. Hammond.   |
| 10 | Plaster casts in the sculpture galleries, Victoria Memorial Museum (National Gallery of Canada), c. 1913–1930.  | 20 | Canadian section, Chicago World's Fair, 1933.   |

- 21 Kathleen Fenwick, Curator of Prints and Drawings, National Gallery of Canada, May 1936 (printed 1978).
- 22 H.O. McCurry, Director, National Gallery of Canada, c. 1939. Photograph: Blank & Stoller.
- 23 Exterior of the Canadian Pavilion, New York World's Fair, 1939. Photograph: Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau.
- 24 *La Province de Québec*, Canadian Pavilion, New York World's Fair, 1939. Murals by Edwin Holgate and Albert Cloutier.
- 25 Children's art classes held in the galleries, National Gallery of Canada, 24 February 1940.
- 26 *YMCA Travelling Exhibition*, organized by the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour, installed at the Red Triangle Club, Phillips Square, Montreal, 1943. Photograph: Canadian Army Photo.
- 27–28 *YMCA Travelling Exhibition*, installed at the Royal Canadian Air Force Base, Carberry, Manitoba, December 1943. Photograph: Royal Canadian Air Force.
- 29 Jean Leach of the Alumni Singers, Toronto, at the opening of the *YMCA Travelling Exhibition*, Toronto, December 1943. Photograph: Royal Canadian Air Force.
- 30 *YMCA Travelling Exhibition*, installed in the recreation hall of the Royal Canadian Air Force Base, Scoudouc, New Brunswick, 1943. Photograph: Royal Canadian Air Force.
- 31 Jack Humphrey sketching, c. 1945. Photograph: National Film Board.
- 32 Louis Archambault in his studio, 1950. Photograph: Lida Moser.
- 33 Children and staff of the Hammond School, Hammond, British Columbia, with reproductions of Canadian art, 1950s.
- 34 Opening of the exhibition *Esquimo Art*, January 1952. G.E.B. Sinclair, Director of the Northern Administration and Lands, Department of Resources and Development; H.O. McCurry, Director, National Gallery of Canada; Alma Houston and James Houston of the Canadian Handicrafts Guild; Dr. F.J. Alcock, Chief Curator, National Museum of Canada. Photograph: Gar Lunney, National Film Board.
- 35 Lionel Lemoine FitzGerald, July 1954. Photograph: Robert Ayre.
- 36 Alan Jarvis, Director, National Gallery of Canada, c. 1955. Photograph: Yousof Karsh.
- 37 Governor General Vincent Massey laying the cornerstone of the Lorne Building (National Gallery of Canada), 22 May 1959. Photograph: Newton Photographic Associates Ltd., Ottawa.
- 38 Jean Dallaire in his studio, Vence, 1960.
- 39 Prime Minister John Diefenbaker speaking at the official opening of the Lorne Building (National Gallery of Canada), 17 February 1960. Photograph: Capital Press Service, Ottawa.
- 40 Security personnel in the Canadian galleries, Lorne Building (National Gallery of Canada), 1960.
- 41 Joyce Wieland in her studio, 1961. Photograph: Kryn Taconis.
- 42 Alex Colville, c. 1961. Photograph: Philip Pocock, Ottawa.
- 43 Visit of Jacqueline Kennedy, Lorne Building (National Gallery of Canada), 17 May 1961. Left to right: Thomas Maher, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Canada; Jacqueline Kennedy, wife of President John F. Kennedy; Olive Diefenbaker, wife of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker; Charles Comfort, Director, National Gallery of Canada; Ellen Fairclough, Minister of Citizenship. Photograph: Dominion-Wide Photographs, Ottawa.
- 44 Jean McEwen, 1963. Photograph: Gabor Szilasi, Montreal.
- 45 Jack Bush in his studio, 1963. Photograph: Kryn Taconis.
- 46 Staff Christmas party, 20 December 1964. Left to right: Robert Hubbard, Len James, Paul Larendeau, Bill Bradbury, Bill Bragg, Helen Chisholm, William Dale, McGregor Grant.
- 47 Opening of the exhibition *Three Hundred Years of Canadian Art*, 11 May 1967. Left to right: Greg Curnoe; Judy LaMarsh, Secretary of State; Pierre Théberge, Assistant Curator of Canadian Art; Jean Sutherland Boggs, Director, National Gallery of Canada. Photograph: John Evans Photography Ltd., Ottawa.
- 48 *Ulysse Comtois and Guido Molinari: XXXIV International Biennial Exhibition of Art*, Canadian Pavilion, Venice, 1968. Photograph: Roloff Beny.
- 49 Mervyn Ruggles, Senior Conservator, National Gallery of Canada, supervising the dismantling of the MacCallum-Jackman cottage murals, West Wind Island, June 1968. Left to right: G.K.W. Belford, Mervyn Ruggles, J.R. Marceau, J.A. Fortin. Photograph: John Evans Photography Ltd., Ottawa.
- 50 Opening of the exhibitions *The MacCallum Bequest of Paintings by Tom Thomson and Other Canadian Painters and The Mr. and Mrs. H.R. Jackman Gift of the Murals from the Late Dr. MacCallum's Cottage Painted by Some of the Members of the Group of Seven*, 23 January 1969. Seated, left to right: A.Y. Jackson; Mary Jackman; Jean Sutherland Boggs, Director, National Gallery of Canada; Roland Michener, Governor General (speaking). Photograph: John Evans Photography Ltd., Ottawa.
- 51 Opening of the exhibition *Fluorescent light, etc. from Dan Flavin*, 12 September 1969. Left to right: Barnett Newman; Dan Flavin; Jean Sutherland Boggs, Director, National Gallery of Canada; Brydon Smith, Curator of Contemporary Painting and Sculpture, National Gallery of Canada. Photograph: John Evans Photography Ltd., Ottawa.
- 52 Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau dancing with Margaret Sinclair at the National Gallery Association Ball, 31 October 1969. Photograph: United Press International, Ottawa.
- 53 Opening of the exhibition *Masterpieces of Indian and Eskimo Art*, 20 November 1969. Left to right: Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State; Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs; Baroness Alix de Rothschild, President of the Amis du Musée de l'Homme, Paris. Photograph: C. Marcil, Ottawa.
- 54 Performance of *Skipping Ropes* by Gathie Falk in the exhibition *Some Canadian Women Artists*, 21 November 1975. Left to right: Glenn Allison, Charles Hill, Elizabeth Klassen, Greg Spurgeon, Denise Leclerc, Monique Baker, Murray Waddington, Linda Street, Gathie Falk.





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