

Vancouver
Artgallery



Riopelle

Crossroads in Time

SEARCH AND FIND 

WELCOME TO THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY.

We are grateful to live, work and play on the ancestral, traditional, unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. Unceded means that the land was stolen; it was not given away or exchanged in a treaty.

Riopelle: Crossroads in Time is an exhibition that covers 50 years of Canadian artist Jean Paul Riopelle's art practice.

Organized by the National Gallery of Canada to mark the hundredth anniversary of Riopelle's birth, the exhibition brings together paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints and collages by the artist.

Riopelle was born in Quebec and is known for experimenting with new materials and techniques throughout his life. As you walk through the exhibition, notice how his art style keeps changing. He often used bold colours and abstract forms.

Tip: This exhibition is organized in chronological order, showcasing Riopelle's work across five decades. We suggest starting in the 1940s and moving through to the 1990s.

As you wander the exhibition, use the clues on the other side of this page to enhance your family's visit and find the artworks that match. Look closely, observe the details and enjoy the search!



TURN THE PAGE TO SEE THE QUESTIONS

This search-and-find activity starts at the exhibition title wall in the 1940s section.

1940s | RIOPELLE'S MOVE FROM REALISM TO ABSTRACTION

- 1 Jean Paul Riopelle's earliest artworks were more realistic. Find the works that look most true to life and describe the objects you see.
- 2 As he grew older, Riopelle's work became more abstract. Abstraction is when an artist changes the lines, colours and shapes of an artwork so that it no longer looks realistic.

Find an abstract artwork. Describe the colours, lines and shapes in the work. Use an imaginary paintbrush and follow the lines and brushstrokes that you see.

- 3 As you walk around this room, find an abstract work that has a lot of texture. Riopelle used a flexible, round knife called a palette knife to make these works. The palette knife allowed Riopelle to move the large areas of paint around the canvas.

1950s | MOVE TO THE NEXT ROOM



- 4 Find a painting that looks like it was inspired by nature. What words come to mind when you look at this painting?

Can you turn these words into a poem or sentence about the artwork?

- 5 Find a painting that looks like it was inspired by a city. [Hint: Take a closer look at *Chicago II* (1958) or *Il était une fois une ville* [Once Upon a Time There Was a City] (1954–55).

What sounds come to mind when you look at this painting? What about the artwork makes you think it would sound that way?

1960s | MOVE TO THE NEXT ROOM



- 6 Find an artwork with layers. Next, build a story in layers. Start with one simple word about the artwork. Then, have each person in your group add a word “layer” to build a story inspired by the piece.
- 7 Strike a pose! Find a sculpture in the exhibition and copy a pose or movement you see within it. What do you notice about the work as a result of taking on the same pose?

1970s | MOVE TO THE NEXT ROOM



- 8 Riopelle was constantly experimenting with new materials. Find works made of oil pastel, charcoal, felt markers and a xylograph (a print created by inking a piece of wood and rubbing it).

At each work write down the first word that comes to mind.



9 In the 1990s, Riopelle was influenced by graffiti, which was appearing in cities. He started working with spray paint and everyday objects. Look closely at one of the spray painted artworks. How do you think he created it?

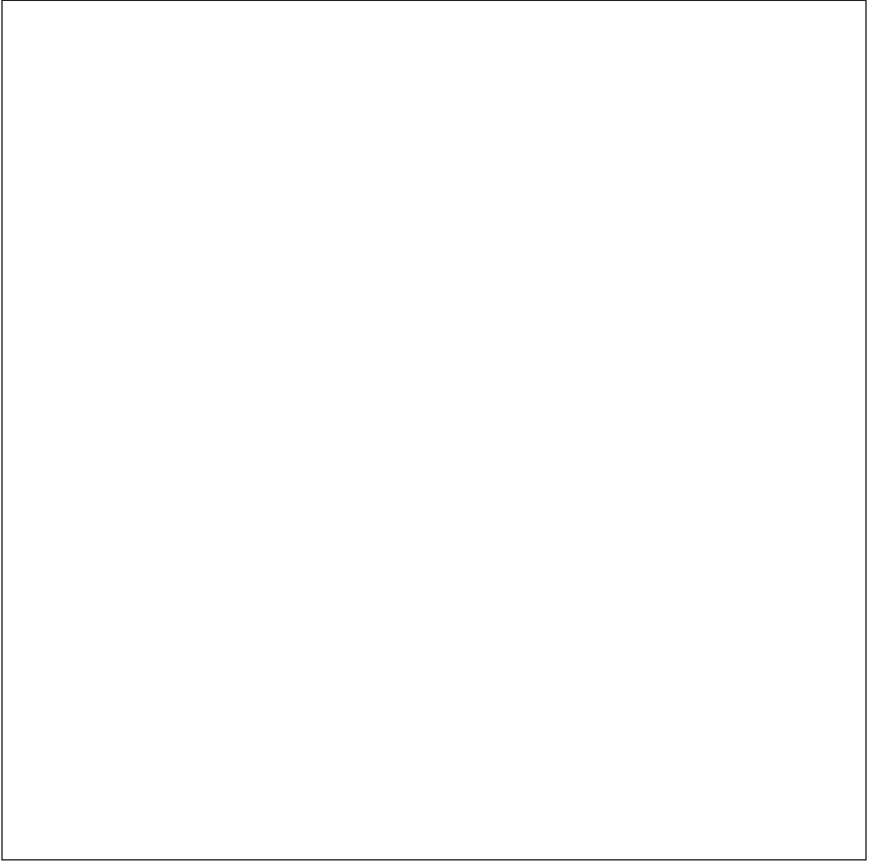
10 Can you find an artwork with any of these objects or animals?

- Scissors
- Hockey stick
- Leaf
- Paper boat
- Horseshoe
- Duck
- Egg
- Feather
- Starfish

If you could add one object of your own to these artworks, what would it be and why?

11

Find an artwork that attracts you and draw a sketch of it with the objects in it included.



This concludes the Riopelle search-and-find activity. Can you name at least three different materials that Riopelle used throughout his art career?

Which artwork was most memorable to you? Why?

Riopelle: Crossroads in Time is organized by the National Gallery of Canada and curated by Dr. Sylvie Lacerte, Art Historian and Independent Researcher. The Vancouver Art Gallery presentation is coordinated by Siobhan McCracken Nixon, Associate Curator.

Organized by:



NATIONAL
GALLERY
OF CANADA

MUSÉE
DES BEAUX-ARTS
DU CANADA

Presented by:

THE | AUDAIN FOUNDATION

Generously Supported by:

Heffel

Media Partners:

VANCOUVER
SUN



Vancouver
Artgallery