

WOODLAND ART

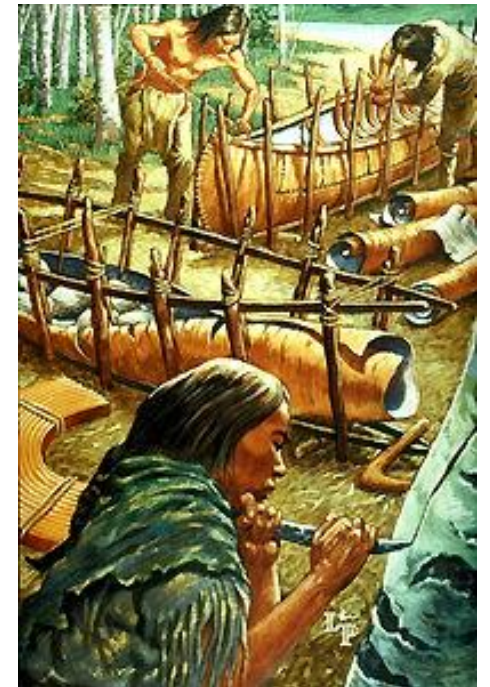
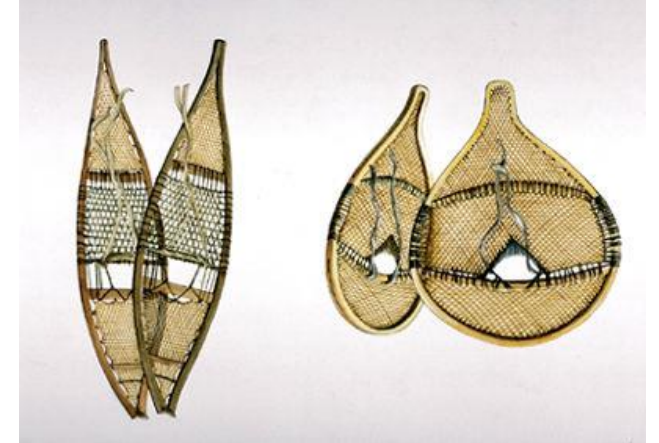
Norval
Morrisseau
Painting

PEOPLE OF THE EASTERN WOODLANDS

- One of the 6 cultural areas of Indigenous people in Canada
- Includes the Mi'kmaq, Ojibwe, Iroquios, Algonquin, and Huron people, among others
- Two language families: Iroquoian and Algonquian
- The climate and soil conditions allow these people to grow corn, beans and squash (aka the Three Sisters). Fishing, hunting, gathering, and growing other crops supplements these three domestic crops.
- Wigwams were used by the Woodlands hunters. They were covered with birchbark, and animal skins.
- Lived in longhouses with other families.

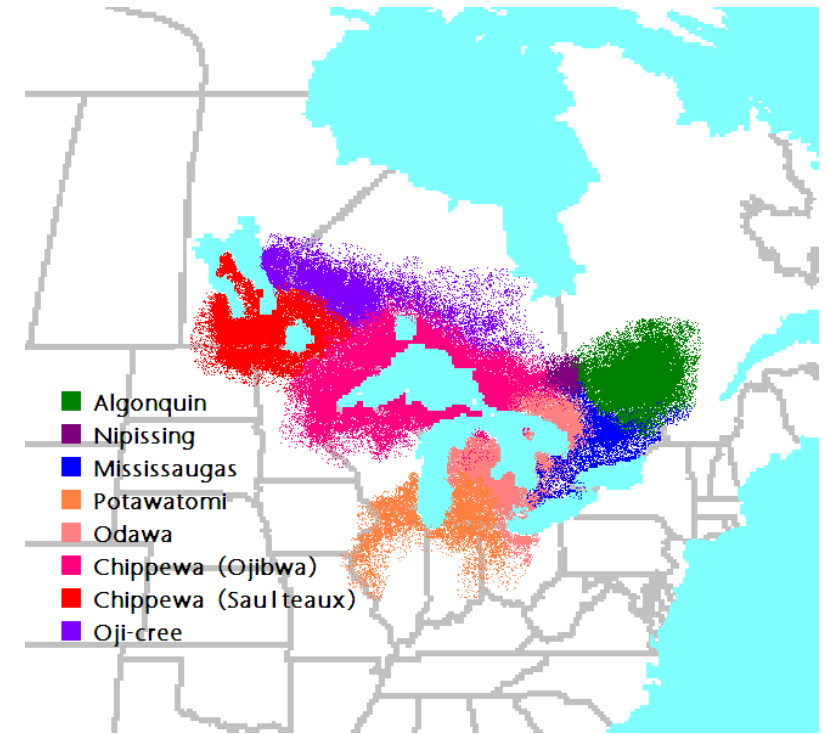


- Hunters often wore long, narrow snowshoes or bear paw snowshoes for different snow conditions.
- Often travelled in canoes (birchbark), on sleds and toboggans, or used snowshoes.
- Clothing was made of animal skins and furs.
- Men hunted animals for hides as well as meat.
- Women responsible for tanning the skins and creating the clothing. Women also decorated the clothing with beads, quills and other natural products.
- Typical clothing included robes, leggings and skirts, moccasins.



ANISHINAABE

- Because of their shared culture and related languages, several different tribes within the Eastern Woodlands are called the Anishinaabe.
- These tribes (Ojibwe, Algonquin, Mipissing, Mississauga, Potawaomi, etc.) still have their own identity and independent leadership, but they share certain ties and cultural traditions.
- Means “original person”
- Live on a reserve, have their own government, laws, police, and services



Political system:

- Groups organized into band-villages. Each community of bands possessed at least one chief.

Art:

- Intricate beadwork and quillwork (women used feathers, porcupine quills, shells, dyes and similar items to decorate their family's clothing, moccasins and belongings)
- Wampum: tubular purple and white beads made from shells used for ornamental, ceremonial, diplomatic and commercial purposes. Wampum belts were often used during treaty procedures.
- Face and body tattoos on both men and women are common in some cultures to showcase a person's heritage and clan identity.



False Faces:

- Wooden masks with metal eyes and horsehair
- Used in curing ceremonies
- Special powers over the winds, ill luck, and illness affecting the joints and shoulders, toothaches, earaches, swelling, and nosebleeds



Paintings:

- Norval Morrisseau, Daphne Odjig, Jackson Beardy and Alex Janvier

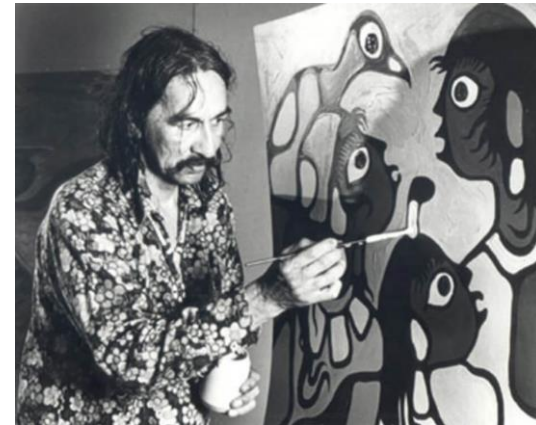
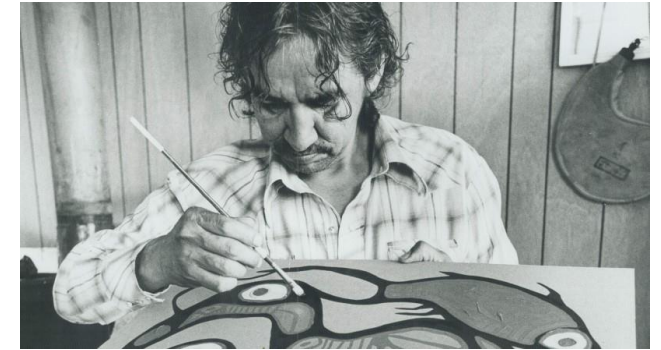
NORVAL MORRISSEAU

When Norval Morriseau first began painting, his intention was to re-introduce the Anishnaabe world view into the contemporary consciousness.

Raised by his shaman grandfather, Morriseau was familiar with the symbols used on the *midewiwin* birchbark scrolls.

Midewiwin: a Grand Medicine Society, or spiritual society among cultures of the Eastern Woodlands. Made up of spiritual healers known as the Mide. They perform religious ceremonies, study and practice sacred healing methods, and strive to maintain a respectful relationship between humanity and Mother Earth

Common characteristics of Norval Morriseau's paintings:



LINES OF POWER

Woodland art often shows lines of power radiating from the heads and bodies of both animals and people. The lines are usually short but the variations in length and intensity indicate the quality of power. The lines can both transmit and receive information.



LINES OF COMMUNICATION

Woodland artists often portray animals and people joined with flowing lines which indicate relationships which reflect the artist's understanding of the interdependence between the two beings.



LINES OF PROPHECY

Some powerful creatures may have narrow ivy-like lines spewing from their mouths which indicate more than simple speech - they indicate prophecy, particularly in association with shaman imagery.



LINES OF MOVEMENT

Very short lines, clustered near an organ like a heart as in this example, indicate movement and an active attempt at communication with the viewer. The lines are particularly significant surrounding shaking tent imagery.



THE DIVIDED CIRCLE

A circle divided in half, connected with the main image by lines of communication is an especially meaningful symbol used by woodland artists. The divided circle represents dualities present in the world - good and evil, day and night, sky and earth, honest and dishonest, function and dysfunction for example.



X-RAY STYLE

The concept of an x-ray view describes the way woodland artists depict inner structures of people and animals. They are representations of inner spiritual life.



COLOUR

Norval Morrisseau had a broad palette. He painted with unmixed acrylics straight from the tube for most of his career. He used colour to reflect what he said was the inner reality of the inner being.



TASK REQUIREMENTS

You will design and paint your own Norval Morrisseau –style artwork.

- 1) There must be a minimum of 2 figures within your painting (a person, animal, part of nature). These must be connected through a line.
- 2) Must include at least 5 colours. These colours should create a mood in your art.
- 3) There must be at least 3 types of lines: line of power, prophecy, communication, movement.
- 4) There must be at least one divided circle.
- 5) Must be done in the x-ray style.
- 6) Must be unique, not a direct copy from Google.







FOUNDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- You have brainstormed many ideas before beginning your project- Your design is creative and well suited for your abilities- Your design meets all of the criteria- You have followed all steps of the creative process- You use class time well- You handle materials with care and always help clean up- You've completed the colour theory and colour wheel worksheets	/10
CREATING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Your design is well drawn out- Your composition is successful- Your design meets all criteria- You have applied acrylic techniques in a professional manner- Your work is neatly painted and complete	/20
REFLECTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- You have clearly communicated your idea and the meaning behind certain aspects of your design (the figures, lines, colour, etc) in at least 1 paragraph.	/10

STEPS:

1. Complete colour theory and colour wheel worksheets
2. Sketch your design in rough, ensure you've met the criteria
3. Add colour with coloured pencils
4. See teacher for approval
5. Sketch your design onto canvas, lightly!
6. Begin painting
7. Write reflection about your artistic choices