



Sybil Andrews "Motor Gun Boats, British Power Boat Company Limited, Hythe, Southampton" oil painting depicts wartime manufacturing in rich hues of blue, gold, and rust red.

TO THE MOON AND BACK:

CANADIAN ASTRONAUT WEARS A PATCH DESIGNED BY INDIGENOUS ARTIST ON MISSION

Earlier this year, as the crew of the Artemis II mission, Commander Reid Wiseman, Pilot Victor Glover, Mission Specialist Christina Koch, and Mission Specialist Jeremy Hansen flew around the moon. Jeremy Hansen, the sole Canadian Space Agency crew member, wore something very special on his flight suit, a personal patch. While it is common for astronauts from other space agencies to have personal patches when joining a NASA crew, what is unusual is the story behind Jeremy's patch. Patches have a special place in space culture, reflecting not only the mission objectives but also the personal preferences of the astronaut who wears them.

Jeremy's personal patch — the Seven Grandfather Teachings — was designed for him by Anishinaabe artist Henry Guimond with consultation from David Courchene III, the leader of Turtle Lodge, who are both members of the Sagkeeng First Nation. The Seven Grandfather Teachings patch represents years of relationship-building between the Canadian astronaut and Indigenous communities across Canada, communities whose shared knowledge and wisdom Jeremy carried with him on his journey around the Moon.

AWARENESS MONTH & DAYS

- [Intersectionality Awareness Month](#)
- August 7 – [Purple Heart Day](#)
- August 9 – [International Day of the World's Indigenous People](#)
- August 13 – [Left-Handers Day](#)
- August 19 – [World Humanitarian Day](#)
 - [2025 Aid Worker Security Report](#)
 - [Doctors without Borders – Remembering our colleagues killed in Gaza](#)
- August 21 – [Senior Citizens Day](#)
- August 26 – [Women's Equality Day](#)
- August 31 – [International Day of People of African Descent](#)

The patch is a blend of Indigenous and ancient Greek imagery. Animals stand on each of the seven sides of the patch, representing a different value of the Seven Grandfather Teachings – respect (buffalo), love (eagle), courage (bear), honesty (sasquatch), wisdom (beaver), humility (wolf), and truth (turtle). At the center, aimed towards Grandmother Moon, is Artemis's (the Greek goddess of the moon and hunt) bow and arrow, fletched with the Canadian Space Agency shield, which arches over Turtle Island (the Indigenous name for the Americas). The silver line extending from the tip of the arrow represents the flight path of the mission. The silver border represents the Orion spacecraft, named Integrity, while the thin blue line inside symbolizes the spirit that lives in all living things. While creating the patch Henry thought about how his art could help bring the eyes of the world to the knowledge that Indigenous people hold and how this wisdom can be used to help prevent us from polluting Mother Earth or destroying ourselves.



The Seven Grandfather Teachings patch which blends Indigenous and ancient Greek imagery.



Dave Courchene III, leader of the Turtle Lodge, and astronaut Jeremy Hansen flank artist Henry Guimond, who holds a poster of the patch he designed.

In an interview with [Upworthy](#), Jeremy explained “...these animals represent some things that I try to think about every day. My mantra when I wake up is I am just going to try to spend my day walking with these attributes. And so, I start with courage, humility, respect, love, honesty, wisdom, and truth... For me, being ‘in integrity’ is walking in accordance with these seven sacred laws, and it’s just something that helps guide me through life”.

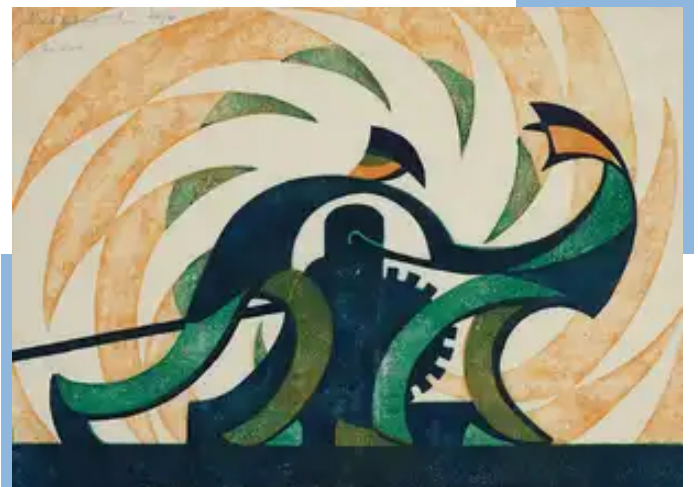
Jeremy's personal patch is powerful not only because it brings global attention to Indigenous knowledge, but also because it embodies the values represented in its imagery. Jeremy's patch is not simply a work of art, but a symbol of a relationship built on mutual respect. It serves as a reminder that when we approach one another with openness and humility, we create opportunities to learn from different perspectives and carry that knowledge forward. The values reflected in the Seven Grandfather Teachings remind us that courage, humility, respect, love, honesty, wisdom, and truth can help us build a better world. A world where people honor the planet and all the living things that share it with us.

Sources:

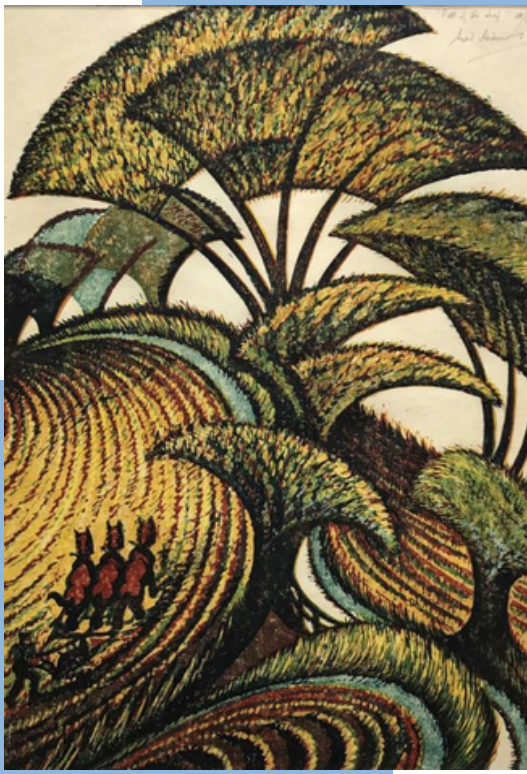
- [Artemis II astronaut carries Indigenous wisdom to the moon | MPR](#)
- [Canadian astronaut carries Anishinaabe 7 sacred laws into space | ICT](#)

FEATURED ARTIST: SYBIL ANDREWS

English-Canadian artist Sybil Andrews (1898–1992) was unarguably a master of linocut printmaking. Sybil, along with others from the Grosvenor School of Modern Art, were the driving force behind the modernization and popularization of linoleum cut printmaking in Britain. She and other members of the Grosvenor School sought to create a new art that represented the modern age, which they achieved using a new medium (1, 2). To create her works, Sybil used a spoon to press ink into designs carved in linoleum with an umbrella rib. It is hard to believe that with such simple tools and materials she managed to capture the energy and movement of life. Sybil's works have a distinct style, figures spiraling around a central point, and primarily focused on the



“The Winch” is a notable work by Sybil, depicting two stylized men turning heavy equipment. Her use of color and design creates a dynamic rhythm.



"Fall of the Leaf" depicts harmony between man and nature. A man plows with three horses in lines that echo the patterns of the fields and surrounding trees.

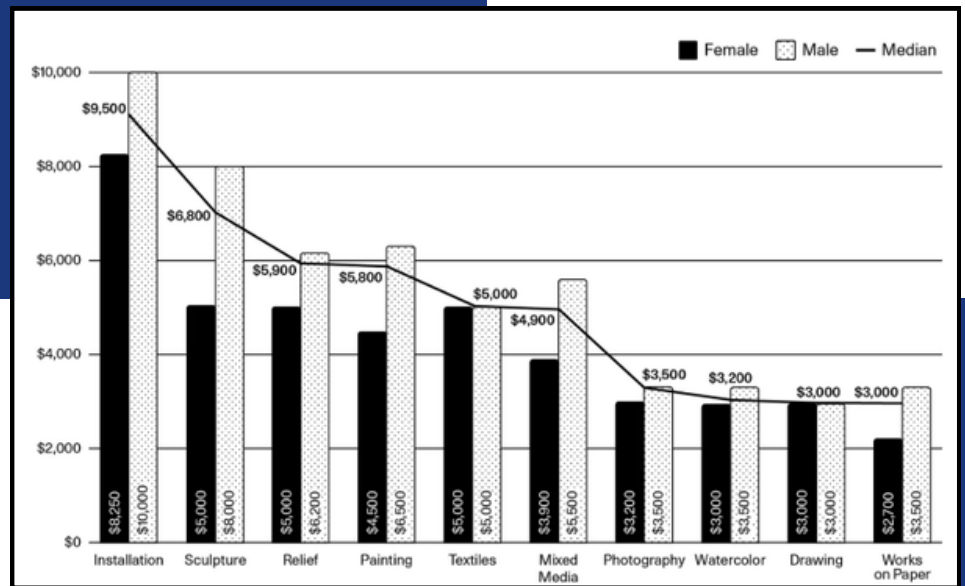
make it more difficult for women to become self-supporting professional artists (4, 5). Even today this inequality continues, with roughly 90% of all artworks exhibited in major collections being by men (5). When it comes to the sale of art one study found that the median price men receive for their work was \$5,500, while the median price for women was \$4,000 (4).

It is difficult to overcome the longstanding perception that artistic mastery is predominantly male, as this idea is held up by our collective beliefs and experiences. For example, think about art history class where the majority if not all, the masters covered are male artists. The inequities experienced by female artists can be overcome through conscious effort. It is worth bringing awareness to this issue, just as it is worth bringing awareness to the works of Sybil Andrews. Sybil was a true master of linocut printmaking, and her bold and vibrant works defined a new era of art. Sybil Andrews helped redefine what fine art could be, proving that innovation is not determined by gender or by the materials an artist chooses. Her bold prints continue to remind us that great artists are remembered not only for their talent, but also for the new paths they create for those who follow.

industrialization occurring around her (3).

Sybil had firsthand experience working in an industrial setting, as during both the First and Second World Wars she worked to support Britain's war effort as a welder (1). The tenacity and determination required to hold her own in male-dominated fields makes Sybil inspirational. Although Sybil's service as a wartime welder is inspiring, her groundbreaking contributions to linocut printmaking are an even greater testament to her legacy. This is because compared to men women have greater difficulty gaining recognition for their mastery and are less likely to be remembered as a great artist (4).

To be remembered as a master, female artists must overcome gender-based inequalities. Historically, it was considered socially unacceptable for women to pursue art, preventing access to training and resources. This lack of access, along with long-standing social and institutional biases, contributed to the perception that male artists were more capable of achieving artistic mastery than women. This in turn translates into not only a preference for exhibiting male artists in galleries and museums, but also higher sale prices for their works. These disparities in representation and financial support



A bar graph showing the median sale price for female vs. male artists, since 1999, illustrating that in 8 of 10 mediums the works male artists sell for substantially more money (4).

References

1. [Sybil Andrews & The Grosvenor School| Phillips](#)
2. [Sybil Andrews - related-content | The Redfern Gallery](#)
3. [Sybil Andrews: The Art of Motion |@microdoseofart](#)
4. [Why Is Work by Female Artists Still Valued Less Than Work by Male Artists? | Artsy](#)
5. [Male artists dominate galleries. Our research explored if it's because 'women don't paint very well' – or just discrimination | The Conversation](#)

Right: "In Full Cry" captures a fox hunt in dynamic motion. The use of sweeping curves and repeating geometric shapes conveys the intense speed and rhythmic energy of galloping horses and riders as they surge over a hedge.



ALLY CORNER:

BOOKS TO READ INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

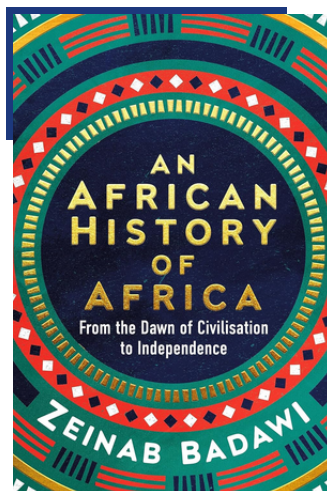
Most of us read books to escape reality, relax, improve ourselves, or learn something new. Reading, however, can also be an act of allyship. Often underrepresented or marginalized groups carry much of the emotional labor associated with fighting for recognition and creating social change. Reading books authored by individuals from these communities allows allies to take on some of this educational work themselves.

Readers not only have the opportunity to examine their own biases, but they also gain a deeper appreciation for the experience of others, making them better equipped to advocate for meaningful change. Reading books authored by people with lived experience allows readers to challenge their assumptions through emotional connection, thus widening their perspective and strengthening their empathy. These books also offer perspectives that are often absent from school curricula and mainstream media, permitting readers to deepen their understanding of complex topics.

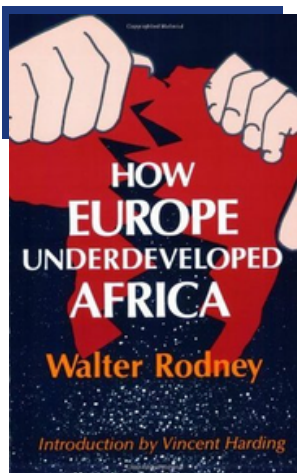
For these reasons we would like to recommend the books listed below in honor of International Day of People of African Descent. Designated by the United Nations, the International Day of People of African Descent aims to bring awareness to and address the centuries of structural racism, systemic exclusion, and the lasting trauma of the transatlantic slave trade. Globally, millions of the descendants of the transatlantic slave trade face economic and social disadvantages. Through the mechanisms of systemic racism, Afro-descendant communities experience lower access to quality education, health care and career opportunities while suffering higher rates of police violence, racial profiling and structural bias. While no single book can capture the full diversity of African experiences, the books recommended below offer perspectives on the history, struggles, resilience, and future hopes of African peoples on the continent and throughout the diaspora.



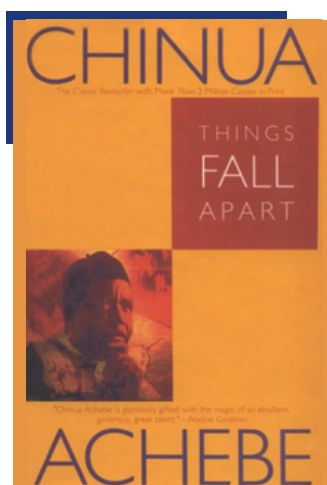
The Souls of Black Folk by W. E. B. Du Bois: In addition to examining race, identity and the experience of being Black in the United States after emancipation, this book also introduces the idea of “double consciousness” (i.e., the experience of seeing yourself both through your own eyes and through the gaze of a society shaped by racism).



An African History of Africa by Zeinab Badawi: Told through the African perspective and written using materials from African historians, archaeologists and scholars, this book covers the broad history of the continent.



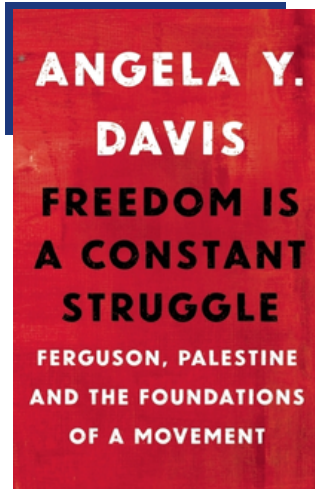
How Europe Underdeveloped Africa by Walter Rodney: This book examines the economic consequences of slavery and colonialism by discussing how the extraction of African labor and natural resources created wealth elsewhere while weakening the continent's development.



An African History of Africa by Zeinab Badawi: Told through the African perspective and written using materials from African historians, archaeologists and scholars, this book covers the broad history of the continent.



Black Skin, White Masks by Frantz Fanon: Fanon examines how colonialism elevated whiteness as the standard for intelligence, civilization, and humanity, while pressuring Black people to abandon their own cultures in pursuit of acceptance.



Freedom Is a Constant Struggle by Angela Davis: Across a collection of speeches, interviews and essays gathered from across the world, Davis examines the interconnectedness and impact of the struggles against racism, state violence, imprisonment and colonialism.



The Autobiography of Kwame Nkrumah by Kwame Nkrumah: Kwame is one of the most influential political leaders of Pan-Africanism and this book recounts his education, political awakening, organizing efforts, and role in Ghana's independence movement.

*Book recommendations were sourced from Afro Mythos with Adeche

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Warm Wishes -

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Lydia Doerr (she/her),
Kynzie House (she/her),
Maggie Haite (they/them),
Taylor Skiles (she/her),
Kathleen Quebedeaux
(she/her)

Right: Sybil Andrews' linocut "Wings," which uses repetitive geometric lines and bold colors to capture the tractor's rhythmic and mechanical energy and the frenzy of the gulls feeding in a freshly tilled field.

