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Did you know that this tipi is a portrait of a person? Portraits usually show a person's face, but they can also take other forms. The images on the tipi tell the life story of Elder Wambdi Wicasta (he was also known as Solomon Hall). The Owapi, or painted images, are sacred in the Dakota spiritual tradition. **See if you can find:**

- Four eagles (Wambdi Wicasta's spiritual helpers)
- Morning and evening stars
- Vision Quest Hills (with golden suns shining from the heart of each hill)
- Two Eagle Staffs (symbols of a war veteran and ceremonial leader)



12



The Mending Blanket

This collaborative art project was made by a group of students in Winnipeg as they learned about Residential Schools and other injustices against Indigenous peoples in Canadian history. **Can you find three images on the blanket that can be seen in other forms throughout the museum?**

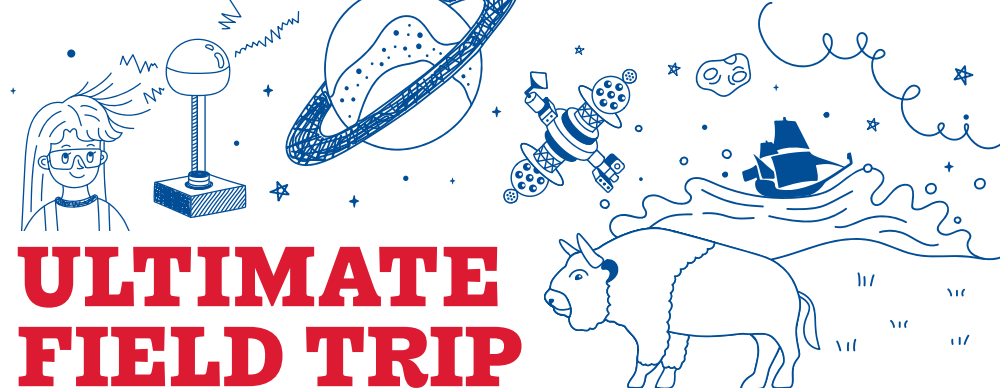
13



Can you find a painting in the Winnipeg Gallery that was done in the Woodland Art style? Who was the artist?

FUN FACT: Daphne Odjig, Jackson Beardy, and Norval Morrisseau were members of a famous group of seven Indigenous painters who came together in Winnipeg in the 1970s and showed their work together. As a group, they were also activists that worked to change the world of art and inspire younger generations.

m Manitoba
Museum



ULTIMATE FIELD TRIP

INDIGENOUS ART TRAIL (Grade 4 – 8)

Indigenous peoples in Manitoba have used imagination and innovation to express themselves for thousands of years. In the past, their creations were not “art” as we know it today – items were sculpted or decorated for spiritual reasons or communication. For example, an image could help record a historic event or tell a story. Explore the Museum Galleries to find examples of creative expression and storytelling, and see how styles and ideas about art have changed over time!

THIS TRAIL DOES NOT REQUIRE A PENCIL!

1



The Métis were once called the “Flower Beadwork People” by their First Nations relatives. Métis beading took inspiration from European embroidery mixed with Indigenous designs. **Look closely at the man on the horse – what piece of clothing is he wearing that has flower beadwork?**



2



“The Creation of the World” by Daphne Odjig



Daphne Odjig had many influences. Her grandfather, who was a stone carver, told her stories about their ancestors and encouraged her to make art. She taught herself how to paint, taking inspiration from the Woodland Art style as well as European artists like Picasso and Van Gogh. **Who is someone that influenced you? Have you ever taught yourself a skill? Discuss with your group.**

FUN FACT: The Woodland Art style was created by Norval Morrisseau, an Anishinaabe artist. This style is also called “legend painting”, because it often shows figures and events from Anishinaabe and Ininiwak stories. The story being told in Daphne Odjig's painting is the creation of Turtle Island.

3



This is an **Amauti**, a special Inuit clothing technology created for thriving in harsh Arctic conditions, with a large hood as a place to carry a baby or young child. They are often decorated with unique designs. This Amauti was made by an Inuit woman named Heeootooroot, about 100 years ago. **Can you name 3 different materials that she used to craft and decorate this Amauti?**



4



Many Indigenous mothers wrapped their babies in moss bags like this one to keep them safe and warm when travelling. Moss bags show the love of Indigenous families for their children. Mothers decorated them with lace and beadwork, while fathers carved and painted the cradleboards. **Have you ever worked hard on something for someone you loved? How did you feel when you gave it to them? Discuss with your group.**

FUN FACT: This tikinaagan was made by the parents of Jackson Beardy, an artist whose work you will encounter later on this trail! Tikinaagan is an Anishinaabe word that translates to “tree vessel.”

5



An old tradition involves decorating items worn by animal companions and helpers. **Look inside the large wooden York Boat to find this item! Who would have worn this colourful garment?**

FUN FACT: This type of blanket, nicknamed a “tuppie”, was worn for show, to make a grand entrance at a trading post. The tuppie started as a Métis tradition but was later adopted by the Denesuline and Ininiwak.



6



For countless generations, Indigenous people have used a variety of materials for decorating their belongings to inscribe them with meaning. They have obtained these materials by harvesting natural resources or trading with other Indigenous groups, and later through trade with newcomers. **Look in the display case- can you name two or more materials used for decorative art?**

7



“The World at Prayer” by Jackson Beardy

Notice the “x-ray” designs in this painting, where you can see shapes inside the subjects (such as the bear). This technique is common in the Woodland Art style, and these shapes can suggest the inner spirits of the figures. Discuss the painting with your group. **What do you think the artist was trying to say?**

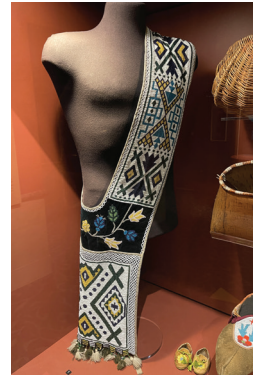
8



Pieces of art are often highly valued, reflecting the skill of the artist as well as their reputation. Bandolier bags hold significant value; they were worn to display prestige within the community. **Which of these items could have been traded for this bag at an equal value?**

A. Horse B. Obsidian C. Copper D. Dentalium Shells

FUN FACT: In Anishinaabemowin, the bandolier bag is called Aazhooningwa'on, which means “worn across the shoulder,” or Gashkibidaagan, meaning “attached together.” These bags are primarily, though not exclusively, worn by men for ceremonies or special occasions.



9



“Rhythmic Movement in the Grasslands” by Dee Barsy

The artist Dee Barsy is inspired by sci-fi and fantasy stories, and says that her paintings create “an imaginary alternate universe”. Colour is very important in her work, and she told the museum that “the blue represents open space, calmness, and freedom of movement”. **What do you think the other colours in the painting represent? How is this painting similar or different to the works you saw by Daphne Odjig and Jackson Beardy? Discuss with your group.**

10



Sometimes artists put hidden images in their work, sort of like “Easter eggs”. In front of the “Prairies Before the Plow” map, look for the beaded shot pouch made by a Métis artist and **see if you can find the hidden infinity loop symbol**. Then, see if you can also find the infinity symbol on the beaded moss bag in a display case near the Red River Cabin (on the other side of this gallery.)

FUN FACT: The infinity loop symbol makes an important statement of Métis cultural identity. It represents the joining of two cultures and the existence of a people forever.

