

## J. S. McLean Centre for Indigenous & Canadian Art

Welcome to the newly installed galleries! The J. S. McLean Centre for Indigenous + Canadian Art upholds the values of mutual respect, reciprocity, honesty and integrity. These galleries reflect the Nation-to-Nation treaty relationship that is the foundation of Canada. This space re-centres Indigenous art: to ask questions, discover new truths, and lead conversations across time. From origin stories to the negotiation of identities against the weight of history, artists invite us to confront issues of land, water, transformation, and sovereignty.

–Curators, Georgiana Uhlyrick and Wanda Nanibush.



Left: Rita Letendre. *Daybreak*, 1983. Acrylic on canvas, 198 x 365.8 cm. Art Gallery of Ontario. Gift of Dr. Michael J. Sole in honour of Rita Letendre and Kosso Eloul, 2006. © 2017 Rita Letendre. Right:

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) operates on the land that is the territory of the Anishinaabe (Mississauga) nation and was also the territory of the Huron-Wendat, Neutral, and Seneca nations. The Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant is an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinaabe Three Fires Confederacy to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Toronto is also governed by a treaty between the federal government of Canada and the Mississaugas of the New Credit (Anishinaabe nation).





Robert Houle, *The Pines*, 2002-2004. Oil on canvas, panel (centre): 91.4 x 121.9 cm, panel (side, each of two): 91.4 x 91.4 cm. © Robert Houle.



Lawren S. Harris, *Autumn Forest with Glaciated Bedrock, Georgian Bay*, c. 1914. Oil on canvas, overall (triptych): 128 x 182 cm. Purchase, 1989 89/14. © Family of Lawren S. Harris.

The curators made the following statement about the two paintings above: “Pairing Houle with Harris sparks an important conversation about place, identity, history, and artistic experimentation”.

In small groups, discuss what you think Robert Houle and Lawren Harris are saying about place, artmaking and history in their painting. Share with the class.

### Questions and Activities:

1. What animals do you think would exist in Rita Letendre’s *Daybreak* (on the front page)? Based on the animals you think into the space, draw and/or sculpt them then create an abstract environment of where they would live.
2. Conduct research to find out the caretakers of the land you are on, past and present. Then find out the treaty agreement and dates of land transfer.
3. Create a collaborative poem about any two paintings or sculptures in the McLean centre. Teacher calls out prompts: What do you see and hear? Who would live in these landscapes? What sounds would the leaves or snow make? Students to write down their words then share in a circle as a group.

**Book your visit today!**

ONLINE [ago.ca/schools](http://ago.ca/schools)  
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**AGO**  
 Art Gallery of Ontario