

**Art & Artists in Exhibition: Vancouver 1890 - 1950**

[Home](#) [Artists](#) [Exhibitions](#) [Organizations](#) [Clippings](#) [References](#)

**M. (Millie) Emily Carr (Miss)****December 12 1871 - March 2 1945**

**Vancouver Studio Club and School of Art**  
**Island Arts and Crafts Society (1911 - 1941)**  
**Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)**  
**B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Charter Member 1909)(Life Member)**  
**Canadian Group of Painters**  
**Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (Medal 1978)**

Emily Carr has probably had the most written about her of any British Columbia artist. This document will simply note her exhibition record, and provide references to further sources.

Emily Carr was born in Victoria, B.C. in 1871. She studied art in California from 1891 - 1893, then moved back to Victoria. She took a trip on the B.C. coast in 1897 which whetted her appetite for west coast scenes. She studied art in London at the Westminster School of Art, and elsewhere in England. Returning to Vancouver she taught children's art classes and spent summers traveling up the coast until 1910.

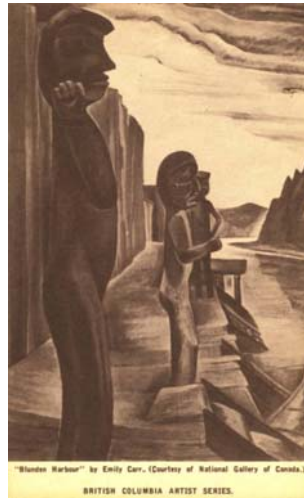
From 1911 until 1941 she exhibited paintings with the [Island Arts and Crafts Society](#) of Victoria.

She was a charter member of the [B.C. Society of Fine Arts](#) when it formed in 1908, and exhibited a number of paintings in their [First Annual Exhibition](#) in April 1909. She continued to regularly exhibit in the group's annual exhibitions almost up until her death.

In 1909 she also exhibited eight paintings in the [Exhibition of Pictures](#) held by the [Vancouver Studio Club and School of Art](#).

Carr took further training in France, even having her work hung in the prestigious Salon D'Automne. She displayed her French work in Vancouver in 1912 with some recognition. However, she then started painting native subjects in her new French style. This proved to be unsuccessful, and she ended up making pottery to sell to tourists and raising sheepdogs in order to make ends meet - in the end spending almost fifteen years without much painting. Finally Marius Barbeau brought the attention of Eric Brown of the National Gallery to Emily's work, which he had been familiar with through his own native work. It was arranged that she loan a large number of paintings to the 1927 traveling native art show organized by the National Gallery.

Much has been written about Emily Carr - biographies both authorized and un-authorized - in addition to Carr's own extensive autobiographical writings. Her connection with artist Mark Tobey is of interest, as was the relationship with her editor Ira Dilworth. In 1929 Carr and [Ina Uthoff](#) sponsored artists master classes given by Tobey.



Dilworth lectured on Carr's work for the [Vancouver Institute](#) in 1942. That year Carr donated artwork to an FCA fundraising exhibition for the Canadian Red Cross at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#).

In Winter 1944-45 Carr was preparing for a solo exhibition of her work at the [Vancouver Art Gallery](#) when she fell ill for the last time, went into a care home, and passed away a few weeks later. Preparations for that exhibition were cancelled "owing to the death of Miss Carr", according to information in the Vancouver Art Gallery Archives. The Gallery held a Memorial Exhibition of her work in 1946, with 191 paintings on display.

Carr's paintings have escalated rapidly in value, and recently set a new record price for not only her own work, but for the work of any Canadian woman artist, or any West Coast Canadian artist, when the Heffel Gallery in Vancouver sold "*War Canoes, Alert Bay*" to an undisclosed purchaser on May 10, 2000 for \$925,000.000 CDN plus buyer's premium and taxes, costing the purchaser over one million dollars to take the painting home. The painting had been estimated at \$300,000 - \$500,000 CDN.

In 2006 a major retrospective of Carr's work was jointly mounted by the National Gallery of Canada and the Vancouver Art Gallery. The exhibition opened in Ottawa, then toured Vancouver (VAG), Toronto (AGO), Montreal (MMFA), and Calgary (Glenbow).

## Exhibitions

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
1938 Oct. 12 - 23	Solo Exhibition (Travelling)(VAGx0248)	<a href="#">VAG</a>
1939 July 4 - 23	Six Local Artists (VAGx0287)	<a href="#">VAG</a>
1939 Nov. 7 - 19	Solo Exhibition - Oils (VAGx0302)	<a href="#">VAG</a>
1940 Nov. 5 - 17	Solo Exhibition (VAGx0353)	<a href="#">VAG</a>
1941 Oct. 21 - Nov. 2	Solo Exhibition (38 paintings) (VAGx0419)	<a href="#">VAG</a>
1943 June 11 - 24	Paintings & Drawings (VAGx0515)	<a href="#">VAG</a>

1946 May 1 - (Jan. 1947?)	Memorial Exhibition (VAGx0709)	<u>VAG</u>
1946 July 16 - 28	Solo Exhibition (12 paintings) (VAGx0720)	<u>VAG</u>
1946 Aug. 6 - 25	Solo Exhibition (22 paintings) (VAGx0726)	<u>VAG</u>
1948 June 8 - 20	Solo Exhibition (34 works)(VAGx0846)	<u>VAG</u>
1950 July 1 - Sept. 30	VAG Permanent Collection (VAGx0963)	<u>VAG</u>

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS****DATE****EXHIBITION****ARTWORK**

1909 April 20 - 28	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>First Annual Exhibition</u>	Wild Lilies Deadman's Island Indian Camp, Victoria Big Trees, Stanley Park Indian Village Scene, Alert Bay War Canoes, Alert Bay Old Warriors A Little Old-Fashioned Lady The Tawny Girl Arbutus Trees
1909 June 19 - July 17	<u>Studio Club</u> <u>Exhibition of Pictures</u>	Deadman's Island Early Spring, Hope, B.C. The Isle of Warfare The Field The Cathedral, Stanley Park Evening Lane, Stanley Park View From Britannia Beach Indian Village, Victoria
1909 November	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Second Exhibition</u>	The Pool in the Grey Wood Farmyard, Colwood, B.C. An Old Garden The Spit, Campbell River The Battered Guardian of the Graves Billy The Schoolmistress Out West Calm Evening Off Beacon Hill, Victoria Chrysanthemums

1910 May	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Third Exhibition</u>	Indian School, Lytton An Indian Grandmother Tommy (Lytton Indian) The Old Maid's Garden Two's Company, Three's None Woods, Campbell River
1928 Feb 18 - Mar 18	<u>Palette and Chisel Club</u> <u>Exhibition</u>	Arbutus Trees Uplands, Victoria
1929 Nov. 16 - 30	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Winter Exhibition</u>	The Raven Indian Village, Skidi. Thunderbird Indian Church
1933 May 20 - 31	<u>VAG</u> <u>Palette &amp; Chisel Club</u> <u>Exhibition</u>	Vanquished Kispiox Village
1938 April 29 - May 15	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>28th Annual Exhibition</u>	My Forest Swirl Old and New Forest
1942 May 15 - 31	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>32nd Annual</u>	Beach Logged Lands Typically British Columbia Sky Somewhere Quiet Sunshine Young Arbutus
1942 Nov. 3 - 15	<u>FCA</u> Red Cross Benefit	(no information available)
1943 May 15 - June 6	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>33rd Annual</u>	Old Cedar Poles Cordova Bay At Seaton, B.C. Alice Old Fir Tree Mrs. Jones' Farm
1946 July 2 - 28	<u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u>	The Little Pine
1950 April 25 - May 14	<u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual Exhibition</u>	Kitwanga

## References - BIBLIOGRAPHY

Refer to BIBLIO.

## References - GROUP EXHIBITIONS

**SOUVENIR CATALOGUE OF EXHIBITIONS OPENING  
THE NEW VANCOUVER ART GALLERY** (refer to [VAG51](#))

**100 YEARS OF B.C. ART** (refer to [VAG58](#))

**B.C. PAINTINGS BURNABY 58** (refer to [BAG58](#))

**4th BURNABY NATIONAL PRINT SHOW** (refer to [BAG67](#))

**PLANTAE OCCIDENTALIS** (refer to [UBC79](#))

**KATHARINE EMMA MALTWOOD - ARTIST** (refer to [UVIC81](#))

**VANCOUVER: ART & ARTISTS 1931 - 1983** (refer to [VAG83](#))

**BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN ARTISTS 1885-1985** (refer to [AGGV85](#))

**BEYOND THE CANVAS - Artists, Stories and the Sea** by Jennifer Breckon and James P. Delgado  
*Featuring the Mary and Bill Everett Family Collection*  
2000, ISBN 0-9695221-4-2; exhibition at the Vancouver Maritime Museum; illust. in colour  
Exhibition included work by **Emily Carr**

**VISIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA** (refer to [VAG09](#))

**SHORE, FOREST AND BEYOND - ART FROM THE AUDAIN COLLECTION** (refer to [VAG11](#))

**HOPE AT DAWN: WATERCOLOURS BY EMILY CARR  
AND CHARLES JOHN COLLINGS** (refer to [VAG12](#))

## References - GENERAL

**WHO'S WHO IN NORTHWEST ART** edited by Marion Brymner Appleton  
*"A Directory of Persons in the Pacific Northwest Working in the Media  
of Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, and Handicrafts"*.  
1941; published by Frank McCaffrey, Seattle Washington.  
Brief reference to Carr.

**PERMANENT COLLECTION** (refer to [AGGV64](#))

**CREATIVE CANADA - VOLUME ONE**, by University of Toronto Press  
1971; ISBN 0-8020-3262-1

**THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SKY** by Lorne E. Render  
1974, Glenbow-Alberta Institute; published by McClelland and Stewart West  
ISBN 0-7712-1001-2; 224 pages, illustrated throughout in colour and b&w  
Includes biographical information on Carr and 8 of her paintings illustrated

[ISLAND ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY - List of Exhibitors](#)

**CARR, EMILY**

*Royal Canadian Academy of Arts - Exhibitions and Members 1880 - 1979*  
Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press 1981, ISBN 0-8020-2366-5

**CARR, Emily**

*A Dictionary of Canadian Artists, Volume 1, A - F, 5th Ed. Revised & Expanded 1997*  
Colin S. Macdonald, Canadian Paperbacks. ISBN 0-919554-21-0

**VANCOUVER ARTIST: Emily Carr**

1997 May; by Michael Clark, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.  
*Visions* newsletter, Volume 3 Issue 3, page 4.  
One page biography with 2 illustrations of her work.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF ARTISTS IN CANADA**

2003, Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press, ISBN 0-8020-2790-3  
250 pages; 9 pages of *works cited* referenced to 8,800 artists  
30 references listed for Carr.

**EMILY CARR, New Perspectives on a Canadian Icon**

Joint publication by National Gallery of Canada & Vancouver Art Gallery  
2006; ISBN-13 978-1-55365-173-4; ISBN-10 1-55365-173-1; 336 pages, hardcover  
Essays by Jay Stewart & Peter Macnair; Johanne Lamoureux; Shirley Bear & Susan Crean;  
Charles C. Hill; Marcia Crosby; Andrew Hunter; Ian M. Thom; Gerta Moray; Steven C.  
McNeill  
Profusely illustrated in colour and black & white; incl. numerous historic photographs, ephemera,  
and maps  
Includes extensive notes; list of works; definitive bibliography (20 pages) including *Sim Art & Artists in Exhibition*.

**"A WOMAN'S PLACE",** edited by K.A. Finlay

*Art and the Role of Women in the Cultural Formation of Victoria, B.C. 1850s-1920s*  
2006; ISBN 1-55058-288-7; 130 pages, softcover, illust. in colour and black and white  
Published by Maltwood Museum and Gallery, University of Victoria  
Includes information on numerous early B.C. women artists including **Carr**

**ARTISTS IN THEIR STUDIOS** (refer to [AIS07](#))**OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE** (refer to [BAG08](#))**INDEPENDENT SPIRIT - EARLY CANADIAN WOMEN ARTISTS** by A.K. Prakash

2008; ISBN 978-1-55407-417-4; hardcover, 410 pages  
Published by Firefly Books, Richmond Hills ON. Extensively illustrated  
Includes biographies, index of early Canadian women artists, list of illustrations, index  
Includes information and works illustrated for **Emily Carr**, [Sophie Pemberton](#), [Mary Riter Hamilton](#).

**VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY - B.C. ARTISTS FILES** (refer to [VPL](#))

## Clippings

"Vancouverites of the future will be glad that ... M.E. Carr and other Vancouver artists find imagination in local scenes."

"Vancouver Studio Club Spring Exhibition"

*B.C. Saturday Sunset*, July 3 1909

"M.E. Carr has also some British Columbia views. These artists are doing good service in preserving the features of a country where changes take place not only day by day but hour by hour."

From "The Studio Club Autumn Exhibition", by Felix Penne,

*B.C. Saturday Sunset*, October 30 1909

"I have not known the work of M.E. Carr long enough to speak positively of what this artist has done in the past, yet I will venture the opinion that in breadth of treatment, boldness, and "grip" the artist shows much improvement. "Cliffs by Beacon Hill" (38) has the breadth and "go" of a scenic artist. I use that comparison in the best sense. Other pictures by the artist deserve equally favorable mention."

"Vancouver Studio Club", by Felix Penne

*B.C. Saturday Sunset*, November 6 1909

"Miss Amity Carr (sic) is another highly valued member of the B.C.S.F.A. ... "

From "Art in British Columbia", by Bernard McEvoy

*Opportunities Magazine*, 1910

"Emily Carr's Oils Shown" by (unknown)

*Daily Province*, October 13 1938

"Art Becomes ART When Expert Can't Decide Which Side Is Up" by Alan Morley

*Vancouver Sun*, October 14 1938

"Canada's Most Original Artist Showing Here" by (unknown)

*Daily Province*, November 2 1938

"Sedgwick Lauds Woman Painter" by (unknown)

*Vancouver Sun*, November 2 1938

"Faculty, Student Review Emily Carr Art Exhibition" by Prof. F.B. Brand

*Ubysey*, November 4 1938

"Examples of Miss Carr's vigorous and original paintings have been shown from time to time...The present exhibition is, however, the first occasion on which we have been privileged to show a collection of her work, which will include some of her most recent paintings."

*Art Gallery Bulletin*, Vol. 6 No. 2

"Women Artists Display Work In Two Media" by T.H.W.

*News-Herald*, November 8 1939

"Carr Painting is Given To Gallery" by (unknown)

*News-Herald*, November 30 1939

"Among leading contributors is Emily Carr with seven paintings ... "

From "[B.C. Society of Fine Arts Display Sets New High Mark](#)," by [Palette](#)  
*Vancouver Daily Province*, May 16, 1942

" ... Among those contributing paintings and drawings are: ... Emily Carr ... "

From "[Noted Artists Offer Paintings For Red Cross](#)"  
*Vancouver Daily Province* (presumed), November 1942

"Of the early painters, two at least should be specially mentioned: Emily Carr and [Tom Fripp](#). Both painted the landscape of the country, but in an entirely different manner. Victoria-born Emily Carr skirted the rugged coast line of the Province, entered the forests with tent, dog and paints, and was receptive to the life and customs of the Native Indians with whom she made many contacts. She painted landscape with a technique based on French impressionism which later gave place to an expressionism which was well suited to the spirit-dwelling aspect of her subject matter."

From "[A Short Art History of British Columbia](#)", by [Charles H. Scott](#)  
*Behind The Palette*, June 1947

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