



# McMichael Canadian Art Collection

## Director's Choice

### Ian A. C. Dejardin

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- A selection of highlights from the McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- Celebrates the Canadian spirit and landscape through luminous artworks from Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven and many historical and contemporary Indigenous artists
- The story of each artwork is revealed in Ian Dejardin's engaging, personable style
- Part of the successful *Director's Choice* series

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection has a unique mandate to celebrate the art of Canada, which it does within a great building in beautiful grounds overlooking the Humber River Valley. Originally a home completed in 1954 for entrepreneur Robert McMichael and his wife Signe, the building became an unofficial gallery when they began allowing passers-by and school parties inside to view their art collection. In 1965 they took the visionary step of donating their home, collection and land to the Province of Ontario and in 1966 the McMichael officially opened to the public. The permanent collection now consists of over 6,400 artworks. The iconic Canadian landscape artist Tom Thomson (1877-1917) features prominently, as do his colleagues the Group of Seven and their contemporaries. Historic and contemporary Indigenous art accounts for over a third of the total collection and is celebrated in the Gallery's dynamic exhibition program. Here, Ian Dejardin's personal selection of highlights offers a revelatory opportunity to engage with the essence of Canada as portrayed in the luminous works of its artists.

**Ian A.C. Dejardin** joined the McMichael as Executive Director in 2017. He was previously the Sackler Director of Dulwich Picture Gallery in London, England, in which capacity he was the author of the first book in the *Director's Choice* series and where he was the driving force behind its critically acclaimed exhibitions *Painting Canada: Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven* (2011) and *From the Forest to the Sea - Emily Carr in British Columbia* (2014).

