



The richness of the Ukrainian-Canadian art community is evident by the large collections held by various Ukrainian museums in Alberta, like The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA), The Ukrainian Orthodox Museum of Canada – Alberta Branch, Ukrainian Catholic Museum of Canada, The Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives, the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, and the Basilian Fathers Museum in Mundare as well as from private collections that augment this exhibit.

Each of the five waves of Ukrainian immigration to Canada has inspired and influenced Alberta’s arts community. Innovation, imagination, resourcefulness, and leadership all describe how, over the past 125 years, we have contributed to a national, Canadian cultural identity. “Five Waves of Inspiration” showcases the diversity of Ukrainian-Canadian visual art by featuring individual artists who have added to Alberta’s artistic milieu as artisans, educators, and mentors. In addition, the exhibit also features a wide range of media that each artist has chosen to express how their emotions, environment, and their heritage have inspired them. This selection of works, exhibited at the Art Gallery of Alberta, best illustrate the artistic soul of the Ukrainian-Canadian community.



This brochure is intended to be a self-guided tour of the exhibit to help school children and adults alike explore the art exhibited. To help school children learn about and appreciate the art, by asking questions that hopefully will lead them to have a better understanding of the art displayed here. The brochure uses the Alberta Education Art Curriculum to stimulate discussion and foster art appreciation and hopefully inspire them in their artistic endeavors.

*Art should be accessible to all individuals. Art education is concerned with pointing out the values that surround the creation and cherishing of art forms. Art is not merely created, it is valued. The relative values given to art products not only tell us about those who produce art, but introduce notions of how values have changed over time.*<sup>1</sup>

*Five Waves of Inspiration* - Each wave of Ukrainian immigration occurred because of unique circumstances whether economic, political, personal, or a combination of some or all of these elements. 125 years ago in the 1890s the first wave of Ukrainians, between 170,000 and 200,000, arrived in Canada to settle the Canadian prairies.

<sup>1</sup> This excerpt is from the Program Rationale and Philosophy of Alberta Education’s Art curriculum, (1985).



The second wave of Ukrainians arrives in Canada in the years between the two World Wars (1923 – 1939). Over 68,000 Ukrainians settled in Canada settling mostly in Western Canada. Life was difficult establishing their homesteads. The third wave of Ukrainians came after the Second World War between 1945 –mid 1950’s. About 37,000 Ukrainians displaced by the War immigrated to Canada, this time the majority ended up in the urban areas. The fourth wave of Ukrainian immigration was much smaller and occurred between 1970’s and 1991. The most recent wave of Ukrainian immigration was post 1991.<sup>2</sup>

Each wave has made a significant contribution to Canadian society. Each wave of artists were inspired by their culture and traditions, their experiences both in Ukraine and in their new homeland Canada and some were inspired by those who came before them. Some of these elements are instantly visible in the art exhibited and some are more subtle. As you explore this exhibit, consider the elements of Ukrainian culture and the artist’s experiences, the media used to create these pieces of art, consider how each wave has inspired the next.

<sup>2</sup> Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group, “The History of Ukrainians in Canada”: [http://torugg.org/History/history\\_of\\_ukrainians\\_in\\_canada.html](http://torugg.org/History/history_of_ukrainians_in_canada.html)



**This Guide is intended as a supplementary resource to the exhibit and exhibition catalogue. As you explore this exhibit here are some questions to consider for discussion and further exploration in your class rooms.**

### Questions to consider and explore

## Elementary grades

1. Can you find the art pieces that show the first Ukrainian settlers to Canada? What media did the artist use in creating it?
2. Can you find the piece of art that shows a Ukrainian church? How can you tell it is a Ukrainian church? Who painted it? What media did they use?
3. How many pieces of art show landscape or buildings in a landscape? All but one is painted with oil paints. Which is the other media used?
4. How many pieces of art include people? Can you list the different media used in creating these?





## Junior and Senior High grades

5. How many art pieces are painted on glass? Who were the artists?
6. Which of these pieces of art could be called a portrait?
7. How many different kinds of media can you list that artists used to create their art? Can you list 5 different ones?
8. Which piece of art is your favorite and why?
9. Choose one of the following art pieces and write a story about what you think is happening in it.
  - a. Wadym Dobrolige's "Refugees"
  - b. William Kurelek's "Prairie Boys setting a Rabbit Snare"
  - c. Nick Ochotta's "A Mother's Vigil"
  - d. Larisa Sembaliuk Cheladyn's "A Mosquito's Wedding"
10. Can you create your art work that shows something that you feel shows what is typically Ukrainian.



1. Which of the artists was part of the first and second wave of Ukrainian immigration to Canada?
2. Which of the artists created art that illustrated the first and second waves of immigration?
3. Can you find an art piece that shows some cultural or traditional elements in the art? Can you explain why you chose that piece?
4. Which art work shows the first Ukrainian pioneers that came to Canada? Who created that piece? What media did they use?
5. Which art piece depicts the Village from which the two first Ukrainians to Canada came? Who was the artist that created it? What media did they use?
6. Find the art piece that was made out of cut paper. Who created it?
7. Which art piece is made of cut glass, tiles and pysanka chips? Who is the artist that created it?



8. How many different media are represented in this exhibit?
9. Which piece of art in this exhibit is the most striking in your opinion? Why?
10. Which piece of art inspires you? What media would you use to create your own art?

Exhibition catalogues available at:

### Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts

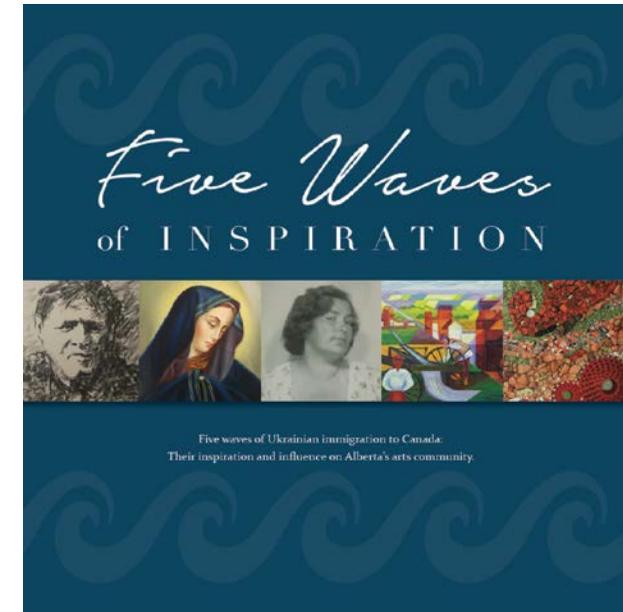
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## A SELF-GUIDED TOUR and TEACHING RESOURCE



In celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Ukrainian settlement in Canada, the Alberta Council for Ukrainian Arts collaborated with its community partners to recognize the creative talents and significant contributions that visual artists of Ukrainian descent have made to the City of Edmonton, to the Province of Alberta, to Canada, and internationally.