








## Women & Arts




Liz Phair said "*Women artists need to break barriers in order for women's experience to be valuable.*" People have been expressing themselves through art for thousands of years. Be it through literature, painting, photography or acting, the world is better and more beautiful because of Art. As Phair said, the women included in the list are just some of the Canadian women who have used their art to push social change and as a vehicle for their activism. Others have used it as a form of expression. These women and many more like them have enriched Canadian culture through the power and language of art.

*Please note that the information contained in this section comes from a variety of sources, all of which are listed in the References section.*

Women	Biographical Information
<p>Ella Cora Hind 1861 (Toronto) - 1942 (Winnipeg)</p>  <p>Provincial Archives of Manitoba</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ella Hind wanted to be a reporter but because she was a woman, the Manitoba Free Press turned her away</li> <li>● She became the only typist in Western Canada - after teaching herself how to use the new technology, the typewriter</li> <li>● established Western Canada's first public stenography bureau in 1893</li> <li>● Hind made her first crop prediction in 1898, which was astoundedly accurate</li> <li>● She was then offered a job as agricultural editor for Manitoba Free Press in 1901</li> <li>● Hind Earned international reputation as an agricultural journalist 'the oracle of wheat' (her predictions had &lt;1% error margin)</li> <li>● Founding member of the Winnipeg branch of Canadian Women's Press Club (female journalists were not allowed in the Canadian Press Club)</li> <li>● Founding member of the Manitoba Equal Franchise Association</li> <li>● Co-founded the Political Equality League in 1912 = Manitoba was the 1st province to grant women vote in provincial elections</li> <li>● The United Grain Growers created the Cora Hind Fellowship for research in agriculture</li> </ul>
<p>Florence Wyle 1881 (Trenton Illinois) - 1968 (Newmarket)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Florence Wyle and her partner, Frances Loring, both sculptors, were commissioned by Canadian War Memorials fund = to create sculptures depicting life on the home front after WWI (1919) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On the Land (1918)</li> <li>○ Munitions Worker (1918)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● She also created a monument of Edith Cavell, a nurse that was executed by the Germans in 1915</li> <li>● Wyle became a founding member of the Sculptors' Society of Canada in 1928</li> <li>● She was the first woman accorded full membership in the Royal Canadian</li> </ul>

 <p>M.O. Hammond          Collection, National          Gallery of Canada          Archives</p>	<p>Academy of Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wyle was granted the Coronation Medal by Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 for her work as a sculptor</li> <li>● In 1984, the Moor Park residents' Association established Loring-Wyle Parkette (Toronto)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Park contains busts of Wyle &amp; Loring and 2 sculptures by Wyle: Young Girl (1938) and Harvester (1940)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Adrienne Clarkson          1939 (Hong Kong) -</p>  <p>© Andrew Rusk/Flickr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clarkson became the first racialized Canadian, let alone first woman, to headline a national program when she became co-host of Take Thirty</li> <li>● 1976, CBC launched The Fifth Estate,</li> <li>● Clarkson became an Order of Canada officer in 1992</li> <li>● She became the first racialized Canadian &amp; first Asian person to be appointed Governor General and only the second woman to have taken this role</li> <li>● 1999 - Companion Order of Canada</li> <li>● 2005 - Co-founded the Institute for Canadian Citizenship - accelerate cultural integration of new citizens in Canadian society</li> <li>● 2005 - Member Queen's Privy Council</li> <li>● 2007 - appointed colonel-in-chief of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry</li> <li>● Received 32 honorary doctorates from several universities</li> <li>● Won several awards for work in broadcasting (eg. 1973-Best documentary; 1982 Best Television Host-Interviewer)</li> </ul>
<p>Rita Joe          1932 (Whycocomagh, NS) -          2007 (Sydney NS)</p>  <p>National Arts Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rita Joe, is often referred to as the 'poet laureate of Mi'kmaq people'</li> <li>● She used her art to share the dark truths of the residential schools and about being Indigneous in Canada</li> <li>● 1978 - published first collection of poetry '<i>Poems of Rita Joe</i>'</li> <li>● 1988 - published second collection '<i>Song of Eskasoni: More Poems of Rita Joe</i> (contains "I lost My Talk")</li> <li>● 1989 - Member of the Order of Canada</li> <li>● 1993 - she was the subject of a documentary "Song of Eskasoni" = celebration of Mi'kmaq culture</li> <li>● 1997 - National Aboriginal Achievement Award (now Indspire)</li> <li>● 2016 - multimedia performance of her poem "I Lost My Talk" (NAC-National Arts Centre in Ottawa)</li> </ul>
<p>kd lang</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● lang, who does not use capital letters in her name, has been singing since</li> </ul>

<p>1961 (Edmonton) -</p>  <p>Wikipedia</p>	<p>she was 5 yrs old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1983 - formed her 1st band 'The Reclines'</li> <li>● 1985 - won most promising female vocalist and many more Juno awards since</li> <li>● lang continued producing albums in spite of being shunned and ostracised by the country music industry after coming out in 1992</li> <li>● Her album, Ingénue, brought LGBT issues to the forefront and undermined traditional country music</li> <li>● Has earned Four grammy awards</li> <li>● 2005 - received Governor General's National Arts Centre Award</li> <li>● 2008 - inducted into the Canadian Walk of Fame</li> <li>● 2010 - performed at the Olympics during the opening ceremonies</li> <li>● 2013 - inducted in the Canadian Music Hall of Fame</li> </ul>
<p>Stephanie Martin &amp; Makeda Silvera 1980s -</p>  <p>Alvaro Goveia / Library and Archives Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Makeda Silvera wrote 'Silenced: Talks with Working-Class Caribbean Women about Their Lives and Struggles as Domestic Workers in Canada' - in 1983 but it was turned down by most publishing houses before finally getting published</li> <li>● Martin and Silvera both artists, recognized that there was very little support for women writers, let alone black women or women of colour writers</li> <li>● In response, they began Sister Vision Press in 1985</li> <li>● Sister Vision Press became the first Canadian publishing house dedicated to supporting Black women and Women of Colour writers</li> <li>● 1991-MS published 1st anthology of Lesbian of Colour in North America             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Finalist in the American Library Association - Gay and Lesbian Book Award</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Published over 50 works in their 15 years</li> </ul>
<p>Debra Kessler 2000s</p>  <p>MFP Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Debra Kessler, is a Métis artist who lives in BC</li> <li>● She demonstrated determination as she re-taught herself to paint using her mouth and foot after a traumatic injury in 1999</li> <li>● In 2011, Kessler joined the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists</li> <li>● Kessler, earned a Fine Arts Degree from Kamloops Thompson's River University in 2018</li> </ul>
<p>Vivek Shraya 1981 (Edmonton) -</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vivek Shraya, a transwoman who is an author, musician, visual artist and performer came out as transgender in 2016</li> <li>● She is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Calgary4</li> <li>● Her album, 'Part-Time Woman' named one of the 17 best Canadian albums by CBC Arts in 2018, was also longlisted for the 2018 Polaris Music Prize</li> </ul>

 <p>Photograph by Vanessa Heins <a href="#">About - Vivek Shraya</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2018, she was chosen as one of the Top 40 Under 40 by Avenue Magazine</li> <li>• When she came out as transgender, she received a significant amount of hate mail. She used that hate mail as the premise for her illustrated comic book "Death Threat" in 2019</li> <li>• Six-time Lambda Literary Award finalist</li> <li>• 2016-Grand Marshal Pride Toronto</li> <li>• She is also the director of the board of The Tegan and Sara Foundation (health, economic justice and representation for LGBTQ women)</li> </ul>
<p>Tanya Tagaq 1975 (Cambridge Bay, Nunavut) -</p>  <p>© Rebecca Wood <a href="#">Toronto's most inspirational women of 2019: Huda Idrees</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanya Tagaq, a solo Inuit Throat singer</li> <li>• since her time in a Residential school she became An activist for traditional Inuit seal hunting,</li> <li>• Tagaq was targeted and received online hate mail for her activism</li> <li>• Her first award in 2005 was when she won Best Producer/Engineer, Best Album Design and Best Female Artist awards - for the CD 'Sinaa' at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards</li> <li>• Since then she has won numerous awards and prizes</li> <li>• In 2016, Tagaq was named as one of 16 Indigenous movers and shakers - for her work as an activist on systemic racism, raising awareness for the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and support for Indigenous cultural preservation (ie. sealing)</li> <li>• She wrote her first novel, "Split Tooth" in 2018, which was a longlisted nominee for the Giller Prize and shortlisted for the Amazon.ca First Novel Award</li> <li>• That novel won the 2019 Indigenous Voices Award</li> </ul>
<p>Rupi Kaur 1992 (Punjab, India) - (Brampton)</p>  <p>Wikipedia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rupi Kaur began sharing her poetry on Tumblr then moved to Instagram in 2014</li> <li>• Her visual poetry work around menstrual taboos was removed by Instagram - her work was later republished along with an apology by the media platform.</li> <li>• Her political (or socially focussed) poetry continues to be influential and has gained increasing attention in Canada and the UK.</li> <li>• "Milk and Honey" is the title of her first self-published book that has now sold more more than 3.5 million copies</li> <li>• This book was 8th best-selling book of fiction in Canada and since Feb 28, 2021, Milk and Honey has been on the The New York Times Best Seller list (fiction paperbacks) for 178 weeks</li> <li>• 2019-she was commissioned by Penguin Classics to write the intro to Khalil Gibran's 'The Prophet'</li> <li>• Kaur was named "Writer of the Decade" in 2019 by The New Republic</li> <li>• She currently has over 3 million followers in Instagram</li> </ul>