

DIGITAL AGNES

Agnes Etherington Art Centre at Queen's University
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Capturing everyday beauty through art

Agnes Learns

2023

SPEAKERS

Fiona MacMillan

KEYWORDS

Agnes Learns, Grade 7-8, School Resource, Children's Education, Painting, Canadian Art, Urban Landscape

FEATURED WORKS

Kathleen Moir Morris, *The Cab Stand, Quebec*, around 1925, oil on canvas. Estate of Diana Ainslie, 2022

TRANSCRIPT

Fiona MacMillan: *The Cab Stand, Quebec* was painted by Canadian artist Kathleen Moir Morris around 1925. This bright, simple and scenic oil painting perfectly embodies Morris's loose and expressive artistic style.

Kathleen Morris always had a deep love for art and began painting in her teenage years. Morris often travelled around Quebec to paint, and she focused on depicting everyday objects that were often overlooked. Old churches, houses, snowy streets and animals were some of her favourite subjects to paint, all of which we can see in this painting.

Morris's paintings are very simple, but are full of expressive brushstrokes, vibrant colours and emotion. Let's look at the way the stone wall is painted. Morris used contrasting warm yellows and cool greens, purples and blues to show sunlight and shade on the wall. She applied small, colourful brushstrokes of blue, green and white to imply stones, without making them too realistic. She used a similar technique when painting the snow, by blocking in light and shadow with long strokes of white and blue. With shorter colourful strokes in shades of white and blue, but also green and brown, she added a sense of depth and details like the grooves the horse-drawn sleds made in the snow.

This loose and creative approach to painting helped Morris to capture the world around her in a bright and soft way.

Kathleen Morris's artwork served as a powerful outlet to express the beauty she saw in everyday life. Art is an amazing tool that can be used to express what is beautiful to us and help express our emotions in a new way.

