



## Emily CARR

(1871 - 1945)

Emily Carr was a Modernist and Post-impressionist writer and artist. She was important because she painted people that were born in the Pacific Northwest Coast.

She painted aboriginal themes and later on in her life she painted landscapes, especially forests.

### Emily's Childhood

Emily was born in 1871 in Victoria, Canada, and she had 8 brothers and sisters. Emily's parents, Richard and Emily Carr, were from England. The Carr family had a lot of money and their house was very fancy.

When Emily's parents died in 1891, Emily started painting and went to art school 1890-1892 in San Francisco, America. Then she went back to Canada. In 1899, Emily went to London to Westminster School of Art.

Emily became an art teacher but her students did not like her because she was rude.

### Emily's Travels

In 1907 Emily visited Alaska with her sister and she painted aboriginals (the people that live in Alaska) in their villages.

In 1910 Emily lived in France and was influenced by Fauves and Gogh's use of colour in his art. She didn't think she was very good at art so in 1912 Emily went back to Victoria, Canada and nearly gave up painting forever.

For 15 years, Emily ran a boarding house called 'House of All Sorts' which influenced her writing.



In the 1920s and 1930s Emily travelled around the world so she could look at other people's work. While she was travelling, she then painted a famous artwork called 'Big Raven'.

When she returned to Canada, Emily showed some of her work in an exhibition and talked about the villages she had visited. She went she went back to Canada in 1935 she put on her own show at the Women's Art Association of Canada in Toronto.



Big Raven, 1931

In 1927 Emily exhibited 26 paintings, pottery, rugs and designs at the National Gallery. This was because Marius Barbeau and Eric Brown liked her work and wanted other people to see it.

### What Is Her Art About?

Her artwork is religious and spiritual. Emily presented God as nature through painting landscapes.

Emily painted the emotional and mythological totemic carvings that she saw when travelling.

Emily's artwork was different from other artists because she painted native people and nature.

Emily's work became more colourful as she got older. Before visiting London and Paris, Emily used charcoal and watercolour for her sketches. After visiting, she used oil paint on canvas.



Emily Carr, Kitwancool, 1928

Emily also wrote books about her native friends. These books (The Book of Small (1942), The House of All Sorts (1944), Growing Pains (1946), The Heart of a Peacock (1953) and Hundreds and Thousands (1966)) were mainly published after she died.

### Her Later Life

Emily produced her best work when she was 57 years old.

In 1937, 1939 and 1942 Emily had a heart-attack and moved into a house with her sister.



## EMILY CARR BIOGRAPHY FOR KIDS

Emily was ill, so she was unable to travel so she painted and wrote more. In 1941 she published *Klee Wyck* and she won the Governor-General's Award for non-fiction.

In 1945 Emily had another heart-attack after receiving an honorary doctorate.



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