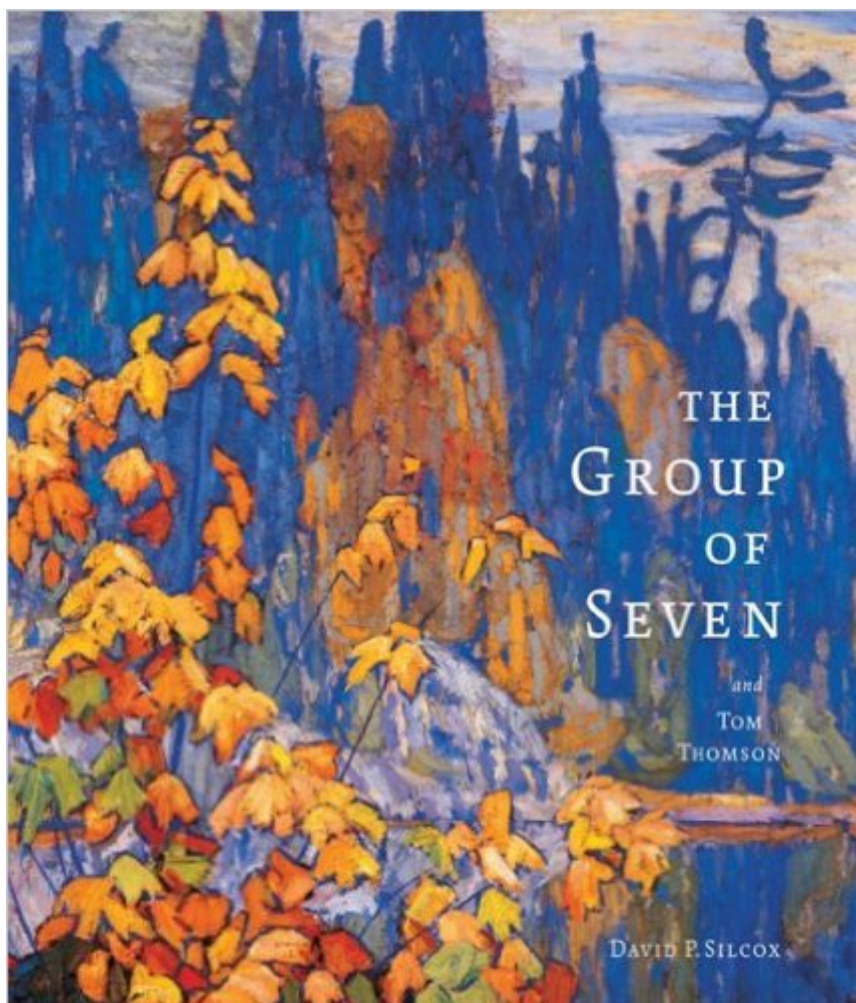


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The Group Of Seven And Tom Thomson



Synopsis

A compact edition of an award-winning best-seller -- more affordable than the celebrated original, but otherwise identical. At a critical time in Canada's history, the Group of Seven revolutionized the country's appreciation of itself by celebrating Canada as a wild and beautiful land. These paintings of the wilderness evoke the same response in viewers today as they did when first exhibited. The Group of Seven and Tom Thomson includes many never -- before reproduced paintings and presents the most complete and extensive collection of these artists' works ever published. The 400 paintings and drawings reveal the remarkable genius of all 10 painters who at some point were part of the movement. Tom Thomson, who died before the Group was established, was always present in the public mind. Included are works by: Frank Carmichael Frank Johnston A.J. Casson Arthur Lismer Le Moine FitzGerald J.E.H. MacDonald Lawren Harris Tom Thomson Edwin Holgate F.H. Varley A.Y. Jackson The artwork is organized by the various regions of Canada, with additional sections on the war years and still-life paintings. Introductory essays provide a context for a greater understanding and appreciation of Canada's most celebrated artists.

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Customer Reviews

First, a brief lesson for the uninitiated: The Group of Seven, along with fellow painter and inspirational leader Tom Thomson, were a group of Canadian painters active from around 1910 to the mid-1930s. Known predominantly for their landscapes, these eleven artists (yes, eleven; not seven; it's a long story) revolutionized the art of their nation by rejecting the traditions of European

painting in favor of Canadian subject matter and a uniquely Canadian aesthetic. By combining elements of impressionism, fauvism, and art nouveau they created their own style of painting which has had an unparalleled influence on the history of Canadian art. David Silcox has put together the ultimate tribute to these amazing artists. The 70-odd pages of text in this book are very well-written, covering the formation of the group, their travels across Canada, and the cultural ramifications of their work. Though the essays offer enlightening reading, the main attraction here is the collection of 400 images. This is one coffee-table book that truly needs a coffee table. The mammoth size of this tome is a challenge to its own binding. It proves, however, that as far as content is concerned, size truly does matter. If you were going to put together a book on the Group of Seven, how would you do it? Would you show the most famous and memorable images, or search for hidden, unpublished gems? In a book this size you can do both! And Silcox does. Would you organize the images by artist, by subject matter (still lifes, portraits, World War I, etc.), or by geographic location (Algonquin Park, Rocky Mountains, the Arctic, etc.)? With a book this big, why choose? Do all three! Different portions of the book are arranged accordingly.

Despite its name, there were actually ten members of the Group of Seven. When the Group was founded in Toronto in 1920 it did indeed have seven members- Frank Carmichael, Lawren Harris, Alexander Jackson, Frank Johnston, Arthur Lismer, James MacDonald and Frederick Varley. The name, however, was retained even after Johnston left the Group not long after its founding, and after three more artists, Alfred Casson, Edwin Holgate and LeMoine Fitzgerald, were elected to the Group in the late twenties and early thirties. Although the Group had a formally constituted membership, it was never an exclusive club, and several non-members, such as Emily Carr, were invited to exhibit their works at Group exhibitions if the members felt that they shared the same ideals. The only non-member represented here, however, is Tom Thomson, who died (mysteriously) in 1917, three years before the Group was founded, but was a close friend and mentor to most of the Group, and had he lived we would doubtless today speak of a "Group of Eight". Lawren Harris wrote that Thomson was "a part of the movement before we pinned a label on it". The original members of the Group had several things in common. All would have been in their thirties or forties in 1920. All were based in or around Toronto, although not all were natives of the city. (Jackson was originally from Montreal, and Lismer, MacDonald and Varley were all English by birth). Most had begun their careers as commercial artists or designers. (Harris, who was independently wealthy, was an exception).

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