

Hands up!



Florence, Wyle
Sculpted Hand, n.d.
Clay

Florence Wyle was an American-born Canadian sculptor and designer. Florence Wyle did not originally plan to become an artist. She began pre-medical studies at the University of Illinois (1900-03), but then abruptly transferred to the Art Institute of Chicago, where she also taught modelling (1903-09). It was there that she met fellow sculptor Frances Loring who was to become her lifelong companion. After completing her studies, she moved to New York for a short time, before settling in Toronto (1913). Both women (nicknamed “The Girls”) were extremely active in the artistic community, joining a number of associations, hosting events at their studio, and encouraging young women sculptors. She worked as a sculptor in clay, plasticine, stone and wood (1913-68). Most of her carvings were executed by herself. She practiced chiefly in Toronto, living and working with her partner sculptor Frances Loring. She co-founded the Sculptors’ Society of Canada with Alfred Laliberté, Elizabeth Wyn Wood, Wood’s teacher and husband Emanuel Hahn and Henri Hébert.



Mary E., Rawlyk
Horizontal Hand Painting, 1976
screenprint

Mary E. Rawlyk studied at McMaster University, Hamilton (pre-med), and she enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, but later changed her mind about the medical program. She later studied at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick (BFA), studying under Alex Colville. She taught high school science and mathematics for three years, focused her attention on homemaking and raising her two children. While her children were at school she worked on her art.

Conversation + Analysis

1. What is happening in the images and why do you think so?
2. What could the hands be saying? How can people communicate with their hands?
3. What can you say about the colour of Rawlyk's work?
4. Both of these artists began in pre-medical school. What do medical school and art school have in common? How can a doctor benefit from looking at and creating art?

Curriculum Connections: D2.2, D2.3, D3.1, D3.2

Project Ideas:

1. Put your hand on a piece of paper and trace the outline. Use scissors to cut out the shape of your hand. Decorate the hand with markers, stickers, paint, feathers, crayons. Curriculum Connections: D1.1, D1.2, D1.3, D1.4

2. Create 2 contour line drawings of your hands. A contour drawing is basically a line drawing. Draw your left hand using your right hand then draw your right with your left. Really slow down and look at your hands while you draw. Which drawing do you prefer? Were the results as you expected?

Option 2: Draw or trace your hands and practice shading the drawings with pencils or crayons. Experiment with value and colour. Curriculum Connections: D1.4