VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

MARCH 11 TO MAY 12, 2021

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Walking Gently: Spirit Stories and the 13 Moons Leah Dorion and Gary Sutton

Image Credit: Left: 'Marijke' (detail) by Gary Sutton, 2017 Right: '12th Moon' (detail) by Leah Dorion, 2019

gallery@501



ART REFLECTION A RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS GRADES 1 - 3





"Walking Gently: Spirit Stories and the 13 Moons features the work of two Métis artists, Leah Dorion (from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan) and Gary Sutton (from Redwood Meadows, Alberta). Dorion and Sutton create captivating storytelling in their paintings using vibrant colours and symbolism to reflect both a contemporary expression of Métis culture and the interconnectedness of all life."

- Kris Miller, Gallery@501 Coordinator

Experience the exhibition virtually

gallery@501

#120 - 501 Festival Avenue, Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4X3 strathcona.ca/artgallery 780-410-8585



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Marijke. Gary Sutton, 2017, 12" x 9" acrylic on canvas. **Exhibition:** Walking Gently: Spirit Stories and the 13 Moons Gary Sutton is a Métis artist living in Alberta. He uses the Woodland Style to paint images of animals, plants, and colours and to tell stories of people.

Look closely

Let's look at the painting titled <u>Marijke</u> (<u>Image 2 of 25 in virtual slideshow</u>), and discuss with your class:

- Can you spot and name two animals in this painting?
- How many flowers do you see?
- What colours does Gary use in this painting? In your opinion, are they quiet or loud colours?
- Does he use the colour black in his painting?

More resources:

Read more about the symbols and the story in *Marijke* (page 2 in Gary Sutton Stories pdf)

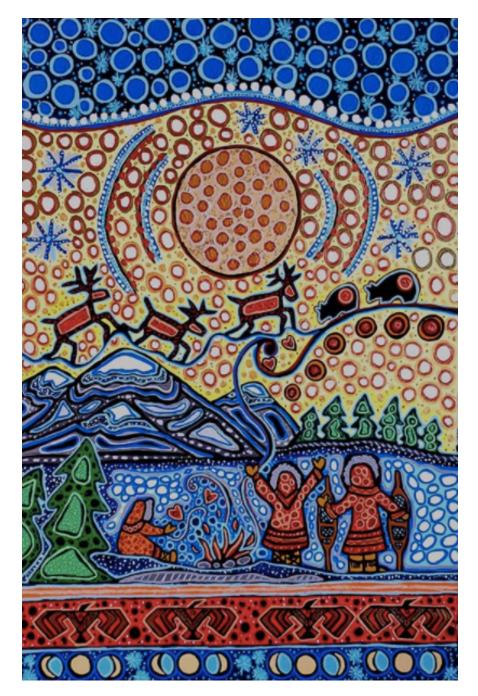
Read more about Gary Sutton.

Creative response

It's your turn to create your own story using the same elements Gary uses in his paintings! Fill in the blanks to create a short poem and read it in class.

| l am | (pick an animal) |
|---------|-------------------------|
| l feel | (pick a colour) |
| l see | (pick a flower or plant |
| l dream | (pick an emotion) |





1st Moon. Leah Dorion, 2018, 36" x 24" acrylic on canvas. **Exhibition:** Walking Gently: Spirit Stories and the 13 Moons Leah Dorion is a teacher, painter, filmmaker and writer from Saskatchewan. Leah paints stories of the "Grandmother Moon", as it is known in Métis tradition.

Look closely

Take a minute to look at the painting titled *1st Moon*.

- What do you see?
- Are there animals?
- Are there people?
- Is it daytime or nighttime?
- What colours do you see?

Let's play Eye Spy!

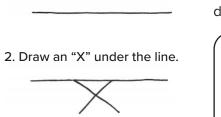
- ___ The Moon and Stars
- ___ A Fire
- ____ Three Mountains
- ___ Four Hearts
- ___ Two Snowshoes
- ___ Four Thunderbirds

More resources: Read more about Leah Dorion.

Creative response

1. Draw a long line.

Did you know? In many Indigenous cultures, Thunderbirds symbolize the great power of mother nature.



3. Place a head in the centre.



4. Draw two wing lines.



5. Add claws on feet feet.



Follow the steps to learn how to draw a Thunderbird pictograph.



