



VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

MARCH 11 TO MAY 12, 2021

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



ART REFLECTION

A RESOURCE FOR TEACHERS

GRADES 1 - 3

gallery@501

FESTIVAL PLACE
Cultural Arts Foundation

STRATHCONA
COUNTY

“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

Find Us | @Gallery501





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 [Marijke \(Image 2 of 25 in virtual slideshow\)](#), 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.

I am _____ (pick an animal)

I feel _____ (pick a colour)

I see _____ (pick a flower or plant)

I 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

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

1. Draw a long line.



2. Draw an “X” under the line.



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.

