



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 4 - 6

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

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Shane. Gary Sutton, 2020, 36" x 24" acrylic on canvas.
Exhibition: Walking Gently: Spirit Stories and the 13 Moons

Gary Sutton is a Métis artist from Ontario living in Alberta. Gary explores the relationships between people, animals, and plants and he paints in the Woodland Style to tell stories.

Look closely

What do you see? At a first glance, what do you think Gary Sutton's artworks look like? Pick an answer and discuss with your class.

- a) Portraits
- b) Landscapes
- c) Still life
- d) Other _____

Listen Carefully

[Watch this video](#) and answer the following questions:

1. Who is the main character of this story?
2. In the painting, what does the scar and hidden claw of the bear mean?
3. Who do the flowers represent?

More resources:

[Read more about Gary Sutton.](#)

Creative response

It's your turn to create your own story!

Pick one animal, one flower or plant, and two colours that you think best represent you and draw a picture. Draw your response below. Share with your class what these symbols and colours mean to you.



Berry Fasting. Leah Dorion, 2020, 48" x 30" acrylic on canvas.
Exhibition: Walking Gently: Spirit Stories and the 13 Moons

Leah Dorion is a teacher, painter, filmmaker and writer, from Saskatchewan. For generations, Indigenous women connected with the moon for teachings and guidance. Leah Dorion honours her Métis heritage by painting stories of the “Grandmother Moon”.

Watch and listen

[Watch this video](#) of artist Leah Dorion.

Now that you know more about the meaning in Leah’s paintings, can you recognize shapes, colours, objects or symbols in her other paintings?

Creative response

Scroll through some more of her paintings in the virtual exhibition and draw three shapes or symbols you see repeated.

More resources:

[Read more about Leah Dorion.](#)