

## Group of Seven +

Artist Statement

Mary McKenzie

Behind all my landscape work is the question "**What is a landscape?**".

In Canada the name *Group of Seven* is probably the most recognized name in landscape painting. Each of its member plus Tom Thompson and others closely associated with the group, maintain a high recognition factor. It occurred to me that by just hearing the names of these artists many Canadians would automatically conjure up a minds-eye-view of the group's landscapes. And that perhaps it was no longer necessary to actually see the work to appreciate it.

Growing up as a child we had one art book in our home, it was of the McMichael Collection. *The Group of Seven +* series lists, by artist, the works in this book. Artist's name, title of the work and year were written on carbon paper placed over a postcard sized piece of BFK paper. I continuously wrote, writing over previously written information until each artist's listed works was complete on their card. Bits of information remained legible, providing clues about the artist for viewers to solve the puzzle. By doing so they are rewarded by their own personal recollections of that particular artist's work. For those that choose not to guess, the same benefit is achieved by referring to the title of the work.