



## Take a closer look....

- What do you see in this painting?
- Do you see anything that looks familiar?
- What does this painting tell you about the person who painted it?
- What do you think they like to paint?
- Do you see anything man made in this painting?
- Have you spotted the airplanes?

## Information about the painting...

**James Edward Hervey MacDonald (1873-1932)**

**York Mills, 1918**

**oil on wood panel**

Dimensions: 6 x 6 3/4 inches or 15 x 17 centimeters

From the collection of the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery. Generous gift of Dr. Telford Biehn.

J.E.H. MacDonald was born in Durham, England and at age 14 immigrated to Canada (1887) with his English Mother and Canadian Father. They settled in Hamilton, Ontario. He studied at the Hamilton Art School night classes and Central Ontario School of Art and Design, Toronto and eventually began working at Grip Limited where he met fellow artist Lawren Harris who encouraged him to pursue painting full time. In 1922 he taught full time at the Ontario College of Art and took on principal responsibilities. MacDonald was a founding member of the Group of Seven.

While MacDonald is most well-known for his paintings of Algoma, Georgian Bay and the Rockies this intimate painting captures a striking sight in York Mills (an area near Toronto where the Group of Seven predominantly resided). If you look to the clouds in this small painting you may see two airplanes. The First World War influenced major development in airplane design. After the armistice the surplus of airplanes were commonly auctioned off and planes became a common sighting as army pilots would visit communities to show off their flying skills for small fees.

Explore the structure of a biplane with a cut and fold activity included in the kit. What do you think about how MacDonald painted the planes he saw?

Visit this link if you would like guided steps to making your biplane:

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/make-a-cut-and-fold-biplane/news-story/729ca319e2d6e4d1dd5e9d56a003cc05>