

Leah Marie Dorion: Giving Thanks & A Métis New Year

A permanent collection exhibition

curated by Tia Furstenberg

November 24, 2020 — January 16, 2021



Leah Marie Dorion: Giving Thanks & A Métis New Year, installation view in Education Studio

Giving Thanks & A Métis New Year are two series of paintings from the Permanent Collection by Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion. Dorion is well known in Prince Albert and across Saskatchewan as an artist, educator, and author who has illustrated and written several early readers books. These series and three others were part of a generous gift by the artist to the Mann Art Gallery in 2015, and are regularly displayed in the Education Studio. Dorion's delightful work tells stories of the past and present, fosters cultural pride, respect for diversity, and promotes strong literacy skills.

Both *Giving Thanks* and *A Métis New Year* visually describe key traditions and values held by Métis Elders and families. Dorion's use of colour, composition, and shape creates playful and eye-catching displays for the viewer. She invites us into the narrative, offering a chance to pause and ponder the important values of joy and stability through themes that include family, food, home, nature, animals, music, dance, and tradition. We hope these paintings bring a smile to your face and help cultivate a heart of gratitude as you're reminded of all the good and often overlooked things in life; reminders that we all need in these times of anxiety and isolation.

