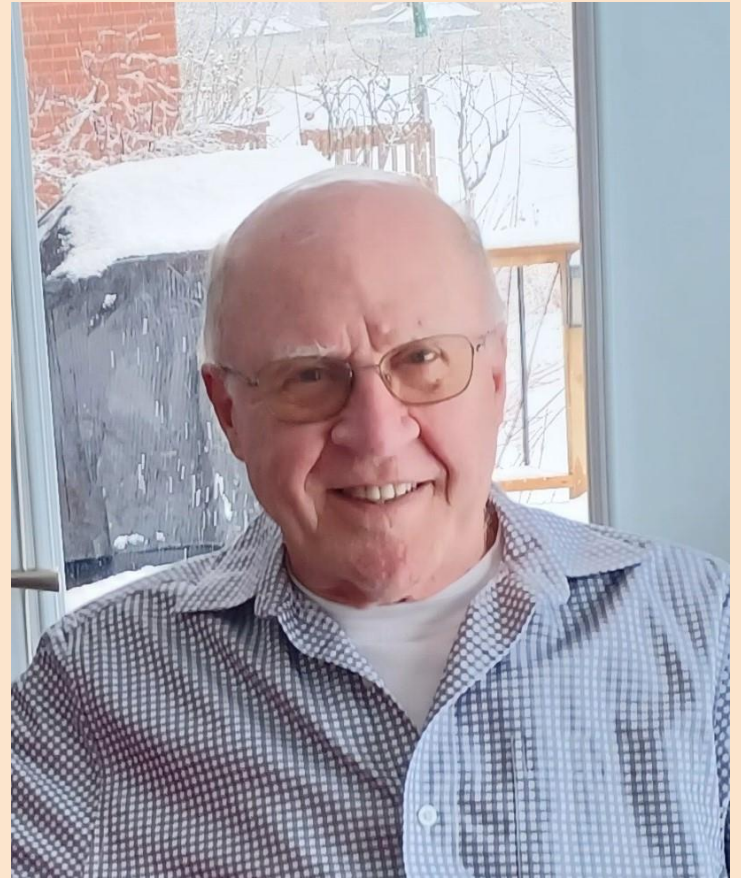


# Ron Ross



# Maud Kathleen Lewis

1903 - 1970



# Artist and Canadian Icon

- Recognised for her paintings of animals, landscapes and flowers
- Nostalgic and cheerful
- One of Canada's most celebrated folk artists
- Received recognition very late in life
- Books, plays, and films about her



# Background

- Born in **1903** in South Ohio, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
- Birth name was Maud Dowley
- Born with **severe scoliosis** (curvature of the spine)
  - chin permanently pressed against chest
- Developed **rheumatoid arthritis**, badly deformed hands











# Nova Scotia

Cheticamp

Baddeck

Glace Bay

Pictou

Antigonish

New Glasgow

Port

Truro

Hawksbury

Wolfeville

Sherbrook

Annapolis

Royal

Digby

Halifax

Dartmouth

Lunenburg

Yarmouth

NEW BRUNSWICK

Prince Edward Island



# Personal

- Physically very small and frail
- Gentle nature
- Cheerful, ready smile



# Background

- Parents were loving and attentive
- Mother taught her to paint and play the piano
- Mercilessly teased at school
  - Left school aged 13
- Adult life of poverty and hardship



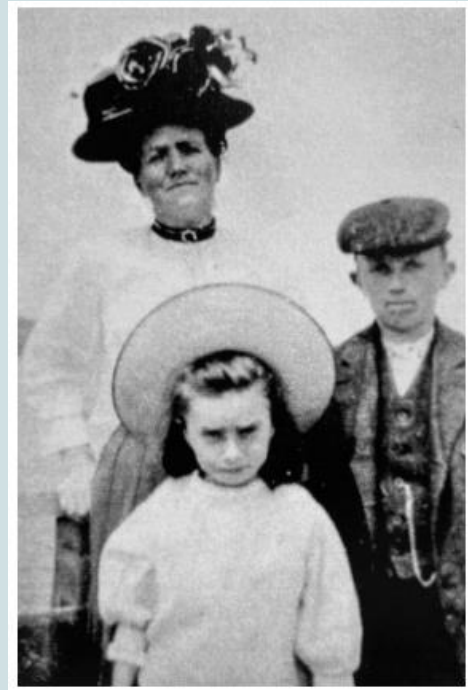
# The Early Years

- As a teenager, she gave birth to a child
- Baby was put up for adoption
  - No further contact between mother and child
- Parents died when she was in early 30s



# Death of Parents

- Brother claimed all family assets
- He made no provision for Maud
- No supportive family, no money, no home
- Stayed temporarily with an aunt in Digby, N.S.



# Quest for Independence

- Not happy being dependent on aunt
- Applied for a job as live-in housekeeper
- Moved in with Everett Lewis in Marshalltown, NS
- Married him several weeks later, aged 34



# Everett Lewis 1893-1979

- Worked as a farm labourer and fish peddler, then as a nightwatchman
- Encouraged Maud to paint, and bought her first set of paints
- Murdered by a burglar



# Their House

- One room, 9 feet x 10 feet
- Tiny bedroom in loft
- No electricity, no running water
- The house itself is a gallery of her work
- She painted almost every surface, inside and outside















# The Beginning

- Maud went with Everett on his rounds
- She sold Christmas cards for five cents each
- Cards extremely popular
- Started selling directly from her house
- Started producing larger paintings



# Growing Popularity

- Used to sit outside and work
- Passing drivers would stop and buy paintings
- Cost was \$5 - \$10 depending on size
- Received an order from Richard Nixon White House
- Never mixed paints, so colours are vivid





*Phil Bunde*







# Three Black Cats



# Carriage and Dog

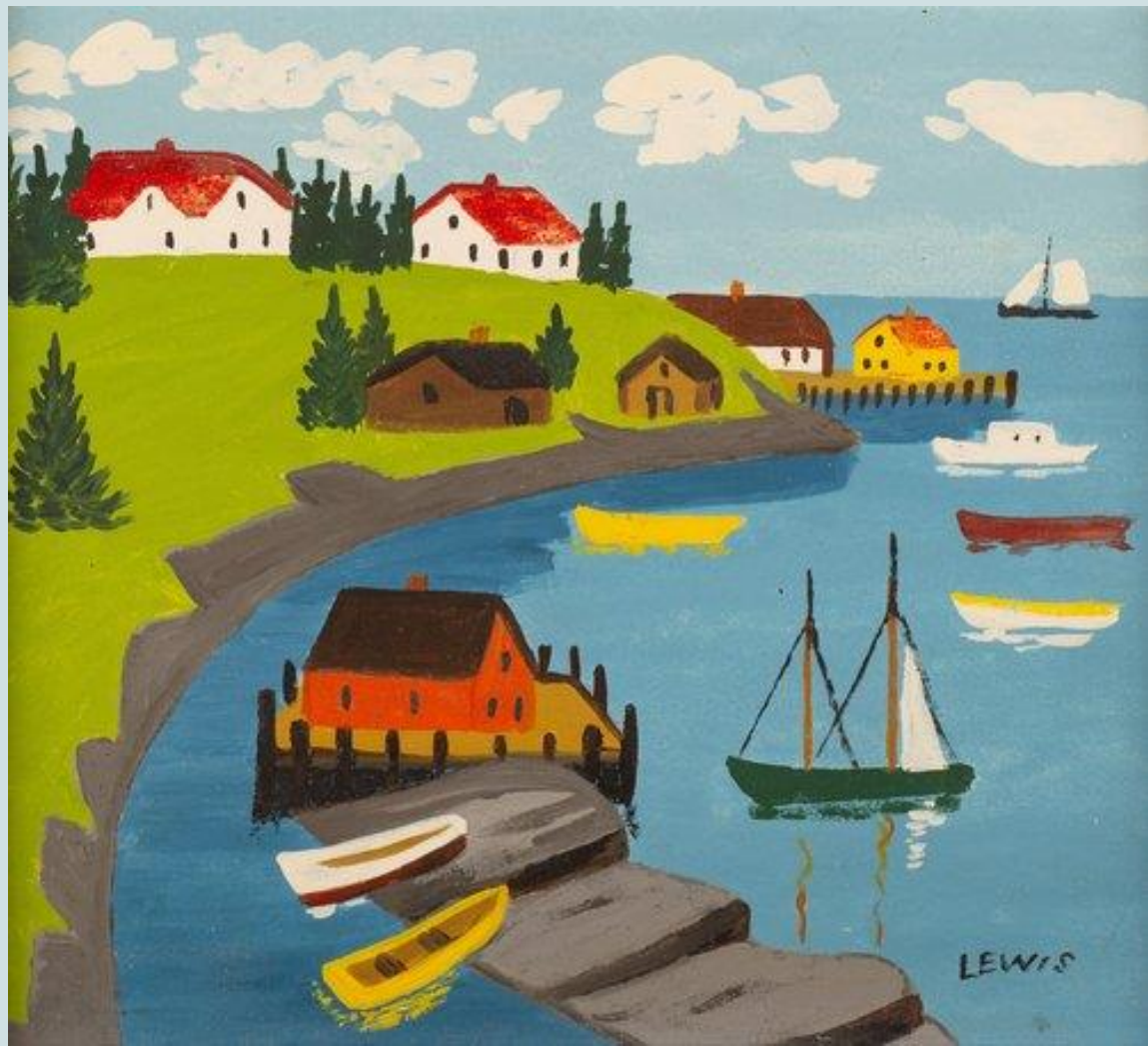


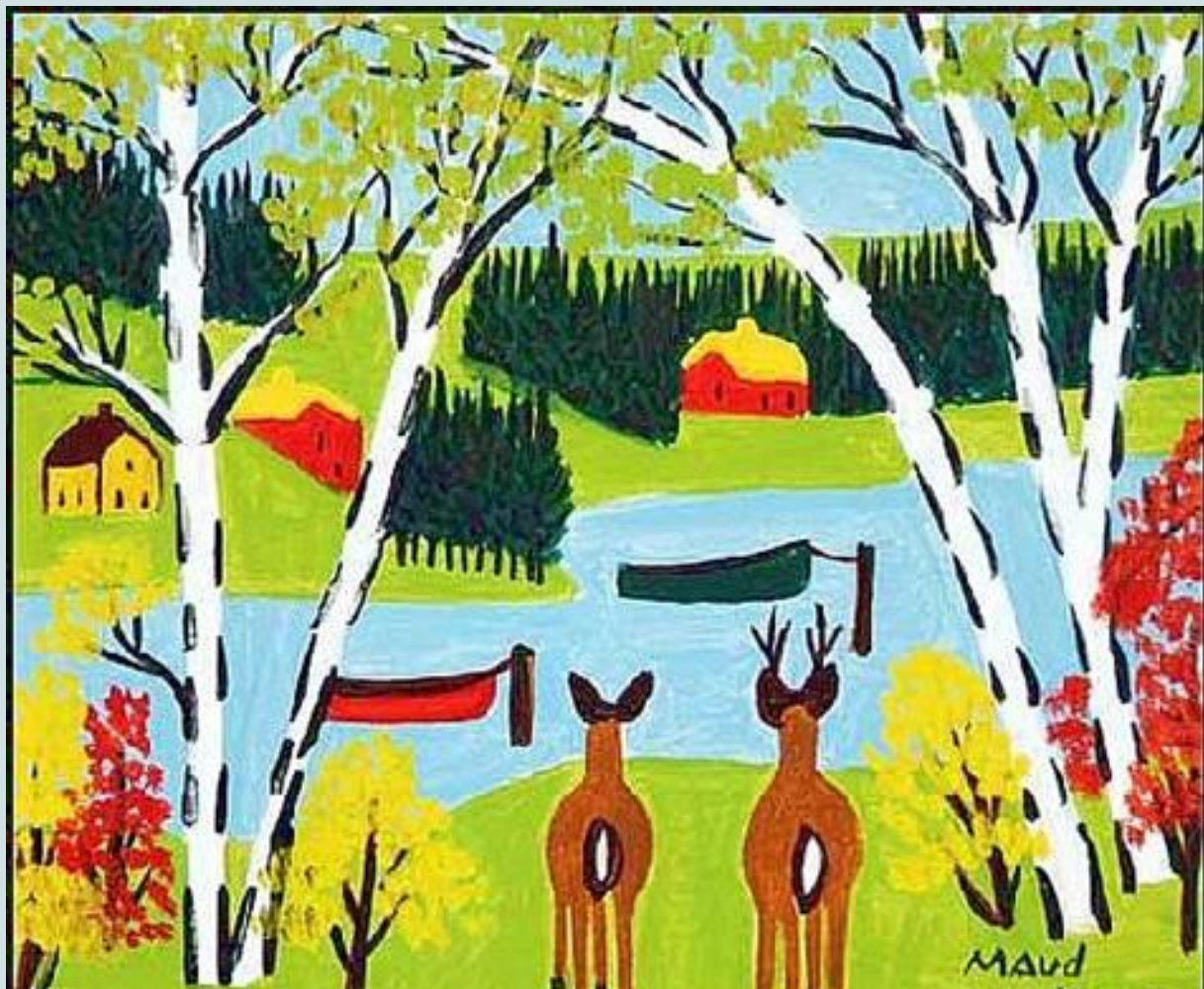


LEWIS

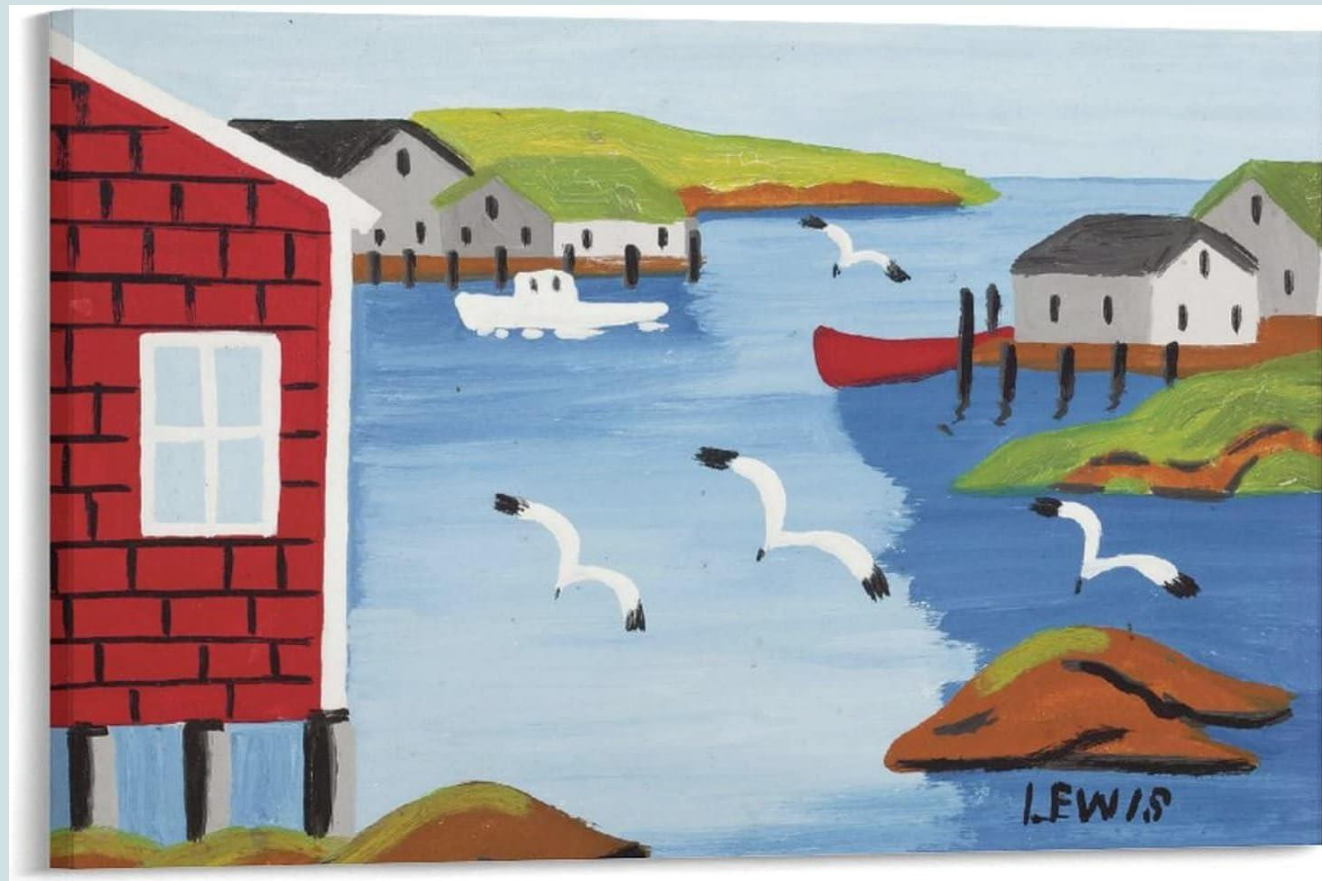
# A View of Sandy Cove







Peggy's cove





# Maud Lewis the Artist

- Was she a good artist?
- What are her paintings worth?





Wheatfield with Cypresses

Vincent van Gogh

\$57 Million





Chair (National Gallery London)

Van Gogh

\$30 million (?)

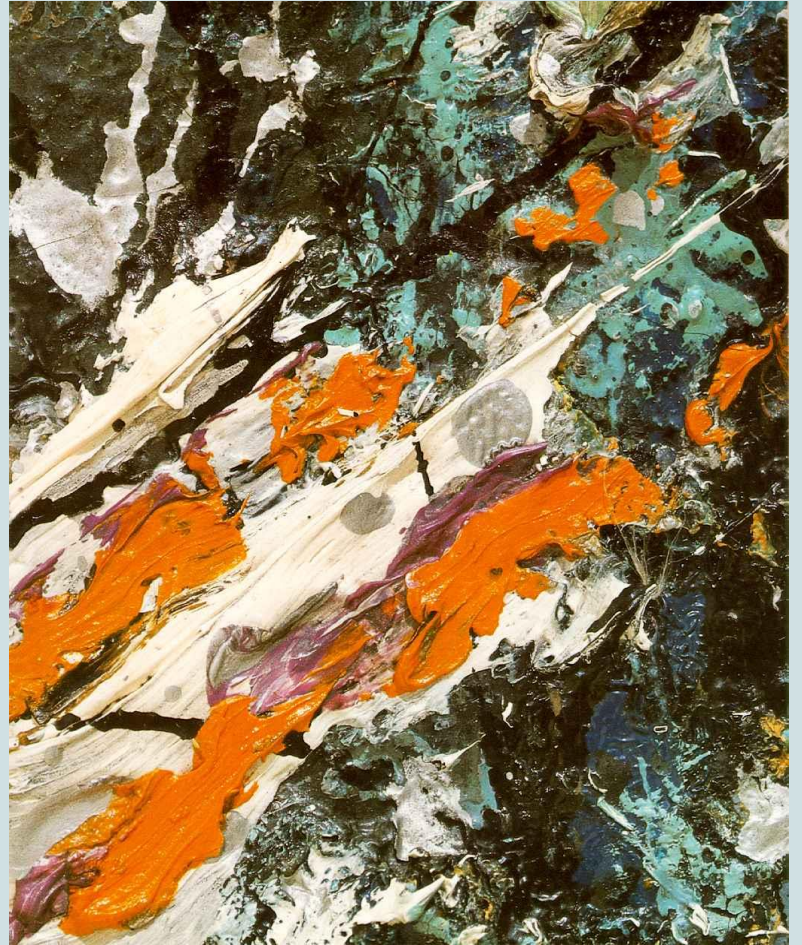




Full Fathom Five

Jackson Pollock

\$50 million - \$100 million

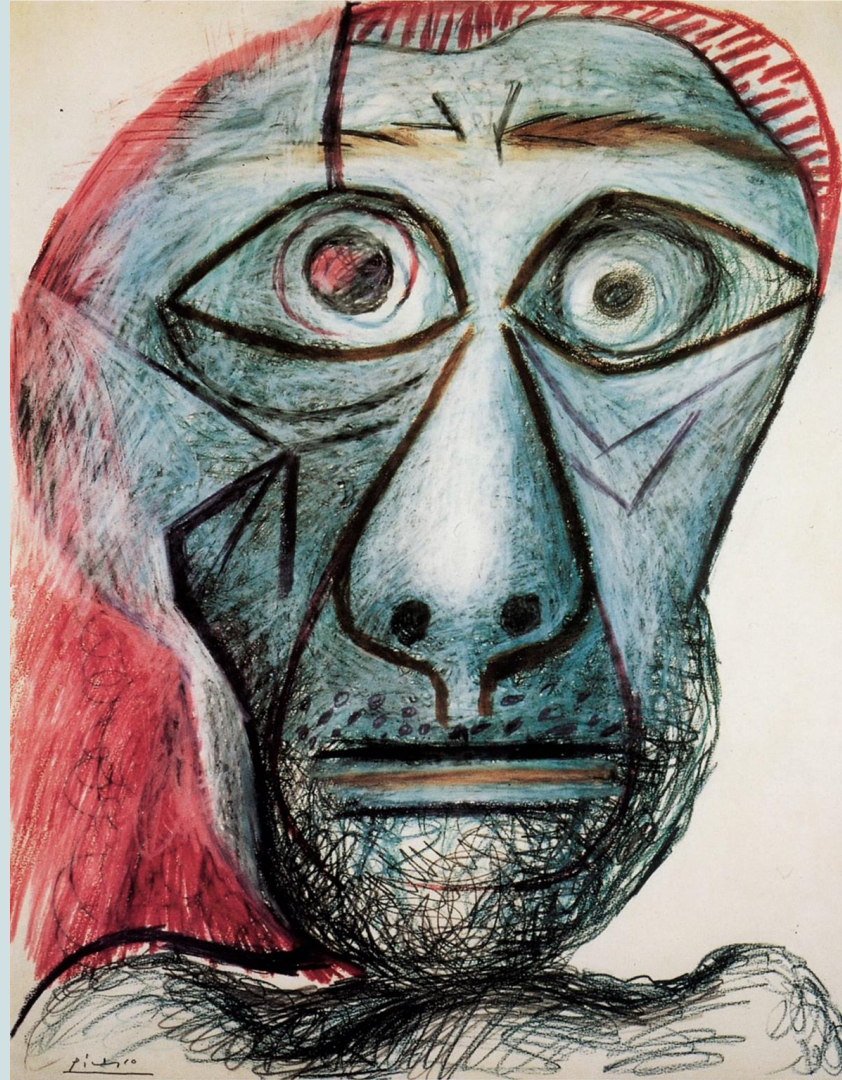






Picasso

Up to \$140 million



Marcel Duchamp

The Fountain

1917



Black Truck

Maud Lewis

\$350,000



# Maud Lewis the Artist

- Was she a good artist? **Yes, it's personal taste.**
- What are her paintings worth? **Determined by the buyers.**
- She has been compared to “Grandma Moses”





## The Final Years

- National attention in 1964 Toronto Star article
- CBC news program in 1965
- Orders poured in but arthritis had slowed her down
- \$10 was highest price she ever received



May 1966

Thank you for your  
order hope you will  
like this painting  
sorry I could not get  
this picture mail before  
I had so much mail to  
look after over 3 branched  
letters

Sincerely  
Maud Lewis

# The Final Years

- Health failed rapidly in 1970
- Exposure to paint fumes, wood smoke, cigarette smoke
- Died from pneumonia in July, aged 67
- Child's coffin, no headstone







LEWIS  
ROBERT LEWIS  
MAY 18 1878  
EVERETT LEWIS  
MAY 18 1878  
MAY 18 1878  
MAY 18 1878





# Maud Lewis

1903 - 1970

Renowned for her courage and perseverance in the face of poverty, disability, and chronic pain.

She was a 'bad-ass' woman.

