

An ARTful Hour

Nova Scotian Folk Artist... Maud Lewis!

March 2010 with Heidi Stoddart



Definitions:

Folk Art: encompasses art produced from an indigenous culture or by peasants or other laboring tradespeople. In contrast to fine art, folk art is primarily utilitarian and decorative rather than purely aesthetic." - West, Shearer (general editor). 1996. *The Bullfinch Guide to Art History*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Folk Art: Art made by people who have had little or no formal schooling in art. Folk artists usually make works of art with traditional techniques and content, in styles handed down through many generations, and often of a particular region. – Retrieved from www.artlex.com, March 2010.

Folk Art: There is no agreement regarding the definition of Folk art. Terms often used interchangeably are "vernacular", "primitive", "popular," and "naïve," but they are unsatisfactory to the extent that they bear intimations of lack of skill, education or knowledge of a "higher" art. ...Most Folk artists of the past were anonymous, but not all... Frazier, Nancy. 2000. *The Penguin Concise Dictionary of Art History*. New York: Penguin Books

Description of Canadian Folk Art...

"Canada's folk art reflects the rich diversity, vivid imagination, humour, and resourcefulness of its people. Early folk art involved the embellishment and decoration of functional objects, contributing to a tradition of artisans show were self-taught and who came by their craft honestly..."

Folk art, or "people's art," as Canadian historian the late J. Russell Harper, terms it, is one of the most honest forms of expression. Folk art speaks for itself as an individual statement, displaying the creative features of spontaneity, simplicity, and, in many cases, humour."

- Riordon, Bernard (Curator. 2007. *Canadian Folk Art from the Collection of Susan A. Murray*. Fredericton: Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

Maud Lewis...



Maud Lewis (1903-1970)



The Lewis home in Marshalltown, NS.



Everett Lewis (husband)

Painting Supplies Used Today...

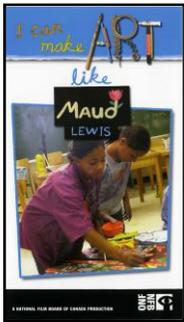
- **Foam Board** (*Sourced at: 32"x40" sheet = \$8.00 each @ ESL Art Supplies, Union St. Saint John*)

Definition from www.artlex.com: **foam core** or **foam board** - A strong, stiff, resilient, and lightweight board of polystyrene laminated with paper on both of its sides. It may be any of several thicknesses, in any of a variety of colors. It is often employed as a surface on which to mount two-dimensional work, and as a material with which to construct three-dimensional work (such as architectural models). Although more expensive than some other cardboards, it is preferred to them for many qualities, including the ease with which it can be cut. Make straight cuts by using an extremely sharp razor knife on top of a mat or other surface that will not be damaged. Draw the knife toward you along the edge of a metal ruler (with finger tips away from that path). Cuts at each of three successive depths will produce a neat edge to the board.

- Brushes
- Tempera Paint (Prang brand)
- Palettes (Styrofoam plates, egg cartons, plastic palettes...)
- Water containers
- X-acto Knife (ADULT USE ONLY!!!)
- Metal ruler (for straight cutting edge)
- Cardboard (to use as a 'cutting board')
- Glue Gun & refills OR Low-odour Acrylic Caulking (ADULT USE ONLY!!!)

Resources:

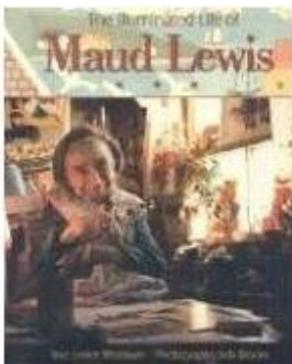
DVD:



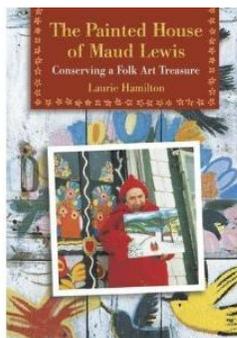
"In this short film from the *I Can Make Art Like...* series, a group of Grade 6 students are inspired by Maud Lewis, the celebrated Nova Scotian folk artist who painted scenes of country life. With the help of artist Kyle Jackson, they create a folk art painting of their own downtown neighbourhood. Informative, touching and filled with the magic of creation, this film shows both the power and simple pleasure of folk art." –retrieved from http://www.nfb.ca/film/i_can_make_art_like_maud_lewis/ March 2010.

**Email Heidi.Stoddart@nbed.nb.ca to borrow the District-owned copy!*

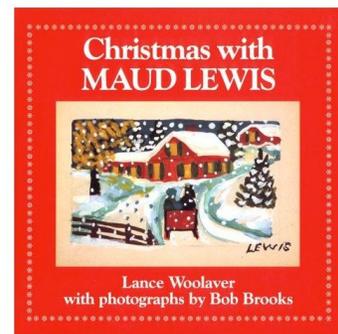
SAMPLE BOOKS:



The Illustrated Life of Maud Lewis
By Lance Woolaver



The Painted House of Maud Lewis
by Laurie Hamilton



Christmas with Maud Lewis
by Brooks & L. Woolaver

SAMPLE WEBSITES:

"I Can Make Art Like..." series = <http://films.nfb.ca/icanmakeart/en/index.php>

"Art Gallery of Nova Scotia" = www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca

AGNS's "Maud Lewis Interactive Tour" = http://www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca/ml_interactive/index.html

"Folk Art Canada" = http://www.folkartcanada.ca/EC_ML.html