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390 Steelcase Road East  
Markham, Ontario, L3R 1G2  
Telephone (905) 475-9126  
Fax (905) 475-6747

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Catherine Whiteside, Publicity Manager  
905-475-9126 ext. 353  
catherine.whiteside@t-allen.com

*The first complete biography ever published about Group of Seven  
artist and spokesman Lawren Harris*

# INWARD JOURNEY

The Life of Lawren Harris

By James King

Lawren Harris (1885–1970) is among the most iconic of Canadian artists. Harris was an outspoken defender of modernism, and a very private person. In this gripping, sympathetic account, James King writes about Harris's public persona as the spokesman for the Group of Seven as well as his championship of Canadian art and artists.

Born to great wealth, Harris spent much of his existence selflessly promoting Canadian painting and the interests of his fellow artists. But Harris's personal struggle to become an artist was long and complex, and he was beset by much turmoil throughout his life. When, early in 1930, he achieved a creative peak—in his mountain and Arctic canvases—he turned his back on representational art and spent the remainder of his career becoming an abstract painter.

Harris's unhappy first marriage, his flight to New Hampshire and New Mexico, his lifelong interest in theosophy, his sometimes overbearing attitude towards younger artists, and the full magnitude of his inner struggles are all dealt with fully in this sensitive, engaging narrative that captures the complexity of the man behind the mask.

**James King** is a Distinguished University Professor in the Faculty of Humanities at McMaster University. King, who is a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, is the author of eight biographies and five novels. His biography, *Herbert Read: The Last Modern*, was nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award.

James King is available for interviews in SW Ontario. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Catherine Whiteside at [catherine.whiteside@t-allen.com](mailto:catherine.whiteside@t-allen.com) / 905-475-9126 x 353

Images from *Inward Journey* are available for reprint with interviews and reviews, subject to publisher approval. Please contact Catherine Whiteside for more information.

**Inward Journey: The Life of Lawren Harris**

**By James King**

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**Praise for *Inward Journey***

“This account of Lawren Harris—the first biography of the Group of Seven’s leading figure—is a richly textured, nuanced story of the artist’s personal and professional journey. From dynamic scenes of the Canadian landscape to geometric expressions of the American southwest, Harris constantly shaped powerful images of our natural world. King is a vivacious narrator as he traces the arc of the artist from Ontario and New Hampshire to New Mexico and British Columbia. The biography not only sets a high bar for further lives of Canadian artists but offers an absorbing and well-illustrated account of the social history of twentieth century Canadian art. This book elegantly portrays the artistic and personal development of one of Canada’s most important painters.”

—**Ira B. Nadel**, author of *Various Positions: A Life of Leonard Cohen*  
and *David Mamet: A Life in the Theatre*

“*Inward Journey*, the biography of my grandfather, is an intimate, absorbing and moving book. In fascinating detail, King’s biography recounts Lawren Harris’s struggles and triumphs. Harris died in 1970: a biography of him has long been overdue, but King’s sensitive account makes the wait worthwhile.”

—**Stewart Sheppard**

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