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“Tracking ‘Animal Roots’ in the Life and Work of Emily Carr”

by: Alexandra Fidyk, PhD &
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In highlighting symbolic events in the life of Canadian artist Emily Carr, a case is made for the transformative relationship with the art complex. Here a backdrop to the first half of Carr’s life is narrated through key events that marked Carr’s loss, growing pains, joys and achievements. At age 56, she had a numinous encounter that symbolized the transition to the second half of life and ushered in a new relationship with “animal roots.” For the next decade her psychological maturation was reflected in developing her own painting methods, writing, and a more conscious relationship to self. In tracking these events and her accompanying psychological states, feelings, and emotions, one can witness a journey of individuation by her embrace of the numinous. For Carr, such experiences arose through her relationship with the wildness of the Canadian west coast.



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Friday, May 3, 2013: 7 - 9 pm,

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