**Norval Morrisseau**

Self Portrait

Acrylic on paper, 1980

32 x 24 in (81.3 x 61 cm)

Sold[Add to Wishlist](#)[Follow Artist](#)

Norval Morrisseau

1931 - 2007

Order of Canada, RCA

Norval Morrisseau's work is marked by the bright colours and defining black lines of the Woodlands style, along with signing his paintings with his shaman name, Copper Thunderbird. His colour palette remained vibrant throughout his career, rarely mixing paints and working quickly with his pigments. He is referred to by some as the *mishomis*, (grandfather in Anishinaabemowin) of modern Indigenous Canadian art.



Born in 1932, Morrisseau expressed interest in art and learning from elders from a young age. He grew up on the Sand Point Reserve in Ontario near He left school at 10 years old, but continued drawing. Morrisseau's vision and style remained clear throughout his career. A show of his work was displayed at the Pollock Gallery in 1962. The exhibition was the first to show an Indigenous artist in a contemporary Canadian gallery. Every single painting was sold on the first day of the show.

One of Morrisseau's aims in his art was to create change for Indigenous people and artists in Canada. He forged a unique visual language that was shaped by Anishinabe teachings, though he was criticised for sharing sacred wisdom in his paintings. Alongside Daphne Odjig, Norval Morrisseau founded the Professional Native Artists Inc (PNAI) which came to be known as the Indian Group of 7. Its aim was to promote and support Indigenous artists throughout Canada and help shift the public's perception of them.

Morrisseau was a complicated man and his mythology precedes him. Nevertheless, he is widely regarded as one of the finest Canadian painters to have ever lived and was hugely influential in the development of contemporary Canadian art. His work is found in museums and galleries across Canada and Morrisseau received many awards over

Norval Morriseau Forgery

ONLINE
OLD TOWN HALL AUCTION: FINE
ANTIQUE FURNITURE, ART &
ACCESSORIES



⁵¹
[OLEG KOSTIUCHENKO](#)



50

NORVAL MORRISSEAU



This lot was sold for \$210.

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LOT DETAILS

Bears a signature 'Norval Morriseau', "Portrait of Morriseau" painting on canvas - 33 x 25in (no guarantees of authenticity)



GARDNER GALLERIES

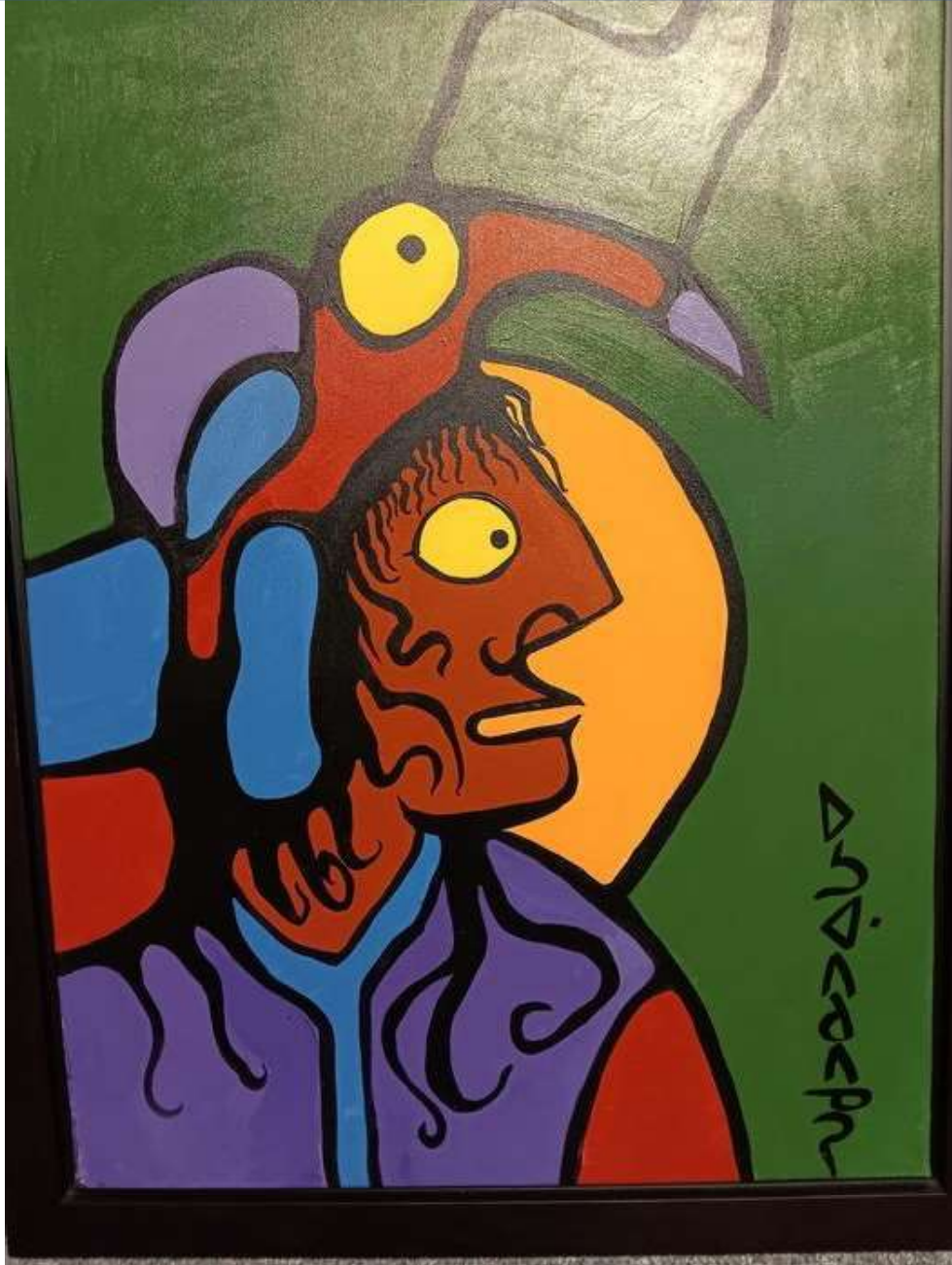
John Manson



Top contributor · 2d · 🌐

Recently purchased this self portrait of Norval Morrisseau .

Acrylic on canvas.



149

49 comments 12 shares

Like

Comment

Send


Share

All comments



Sherry Crawford

Nice!!

2d Like Reply Share 



Anne Watson

My favourite artist.

2d Like Reply Share



Mary-Anne Stuart

Oh wow how great. Well done.

2d Like Reply Share



Janice Edwards

Do you have a certificate of authenticity? Lotta fakes out there, sorry to say.

2d Like Reply Share 



Laura Lea Harrison

Janice Edwards I agree, there was a big lawsuit over fakes and reproduced copies of his art not too long ago

2d Like Reply Share 



John Manson Author Top contributor

Janice Edwards where do I get a certificate of authentication?

2d Like Reply Share



Melissa H. Clark

John Manson Sadly, if you don't have one now, it will be hard to prove its a real one!

2d Like Reply Share 



John Manson Author Top contributor

Melissa H. Clark oh well.

I love it and all my art associates believe it's authentic.

2d Like Reply Share



Melissa H. Clark

John Manson I am sure you could maybe take it to the National Gallery and they might say yay or nay. Perhaps try to ask who you purchased it from their provenance/back story on where they got it.

2d Like Reply Share 




Laura Lea Harrison


John Manson approach the seller for proof

2d Like Reply Share



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair

 Reply as Ritchie Sinclair

 **Stacey Vanier**
Hope you have a detailed provenance for this work. Lots of Morriseau fakes on the market.

2d Like Reply Share

11 

 **Gary Hesketh** Top contributor

Stacey Vanier Very true. I heard an expert say recently, probably 40% of all art in museums and galleries are fake.

2d Like Reply Share



 **Jenny Wolpert**

Stacey Vanier for sure. There was an expose a few years ago...

2d Like Reply Share





 **Karen L Bowen**


Jenny Wolpert Yes, and a documentary was even made. I believe it was his two nephews who set up a prolific forgery process. I forget the documentary title.

2d Like Reply Share



 Reply as Ritchie Sinclair

 Reply as Ritchie Sinclair

 **Kimberly-Ann Lambert**
Be careful. A large amount of replicas sold as authentic.

2d Like Reply Share

 **Annaliese Joy**
That is not his signature...it's an attempt

2d Like Reply Share

3 

 **John Manson** Author Top contributor
Annaliese Joy Thanks.
How do you know that?
What is your expertise ?

2d Like Reply Share



 **Annaliese Joy**

I studied Indigenous art and am familiar with his signature.

2d Like Reply Share



Annaliese Joy

John Manson it looks way too smooth, his syllabics look different

2d Like Reply Share



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



Steve Pearson

It looks odd. I would really seek the opinion if a serious native art specialist. A lot of fakes out there..

2d Like Reply Share



Barbara Dlugosz Top contributor

looks weird to me as well.

2d Like Reply Share



Wendy Chartrand

His colours are usually more vibrant.

2d Like Reply Share



Lenda Freeborn

Wendy Chartrand yes, a lot of so called paintings were not painted by him but by his relatives. We had 2 of his works and you are right about the colours.

2d Like Reply Share



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



Mau Soch

Watch There Are No Fakes documentary .. amazing.

2d Like Reply Share



John Manson Author Top contributor

Mau Soch

Saw it.

A very well done documentary.

1d Like Reply Share




John Manson Author Top contributor


Folks.

Does anyone know what they have done with all the fakes?

Did they destroy them or what?


1d Like Reply Share

 Reply as Ritchie Sinclair


 **Mau Soch**
Hundreds of fakes . They all recently got sentenced ... the auctioneers, the collectors , the appraiser.

2d Like Reply Share





 **Mark London**
What does the back look like?

2d Like Reply Share

 **John Manson** Author Top contributor
Mark London nothing on the back


2d Like Reply Share

 Reply as Ritchie Sinclair

 **Ken Johnson**
When purchasing Morriseau paintings, one should go through a reliable dealer, who will confirm the paintings is an original - with a signed validation document. The other option - purchase only paintings that include Norval creating/holding same, or that come with a photo that shows it having been part of an exhibition/sale in a reputable art gallery. You should also study the images of the wide range of works that he did, and familiarize yourself with his painting style and technique. Many of the older authentic works were done on a heavy-gauge brownish-coloured construction paper, as Norval - quite often - didn't have a nearby art supply store where he could purchase the proper art paper and canvases on which to do his painting. 'Buyer beware' is the catch word these days...

2d Like Reply Share



 **Ronald G. Rice**
Ken Johnson Lots of "reliable dealers" sold fake Morriseau's.

2d Like Reply Share





Ken Johnson

Ronald G. Rice That I know - I wouldn't classify that group as reliable. Perhaps I should have used the words established/reputable? Or? I owned examples of Morrisseau's work, having acquired them back in the early 1970s. At one point, there was a national programme set up in Canada (1980s-90s?), wherein folks could register their originals/have them validated. Perhaps it still exists?? The whole copying/faking thing has taken over many collecting areas. As an example, WW2 'souvenirs' have been faked beginning ca the end of the conflict. That occurred both in Europe and in the Pacific theatre of war and continues to this day. Where there is demand..... As to acquiring collectables of any sort anymore, I still go by the slogan - 'Buyer Beware'. Best to do one's homework. ;o)

1d Like Reply Share



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



Mary Michaela Weber

Ritchie Sinclair you may want to respond.

2d Like Reply Share



Mary Michaela Weber

There are a lot of frauds. Talk to **Ritchie Sinclair** about your piece. He handles the estate.

2d Like Reply Share



Ritchie Sinclair

Mary Michaela Weber Hi Mary. I appreciate your suggestion to John but to be clear my authentications are independant of the present Morrisseau estate, which is as it should be. As buyers and sellers of Morrisseau art they have both a vested interest and present a rich target. My assessments are based on years of painting with Morrisseau and study of both legit works and fakes to defend his artistic legacy in court. Moreover I don't buy or sell his artwork.

14h Like Reply Share



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



Janice Edwards

As long as you like/enjoy it, and didn't pay the earth for it, enjoy!

2d Like Reply Share





Sheri Baker

Sadly , I think you were duped!

2d Like Reply Share 



Joe Doyle

Fake

2d Like Reply Share



Carole Magrath Top contributor

Hope not fake!

2d Like Reply Share



Ellen Sieniewicz

I hope yours is real but yes, check with the National Gallery of Canada or the McMichael Collection. They'll likely be able to help you.

And even if it isn't a real Morrisseau, if you like it, what does it really matter.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/There_Are_No_Fakes

The film is really eye-opening sadly.



EN.M.WIKIPEDIA.ORG

There Are No Fakes - Wikipedia

1d Like Reply Share 3 



Mau Soch

Sadly despite the well know scandal several ontario auction houses continued to sell the Fakes just recently. I report it but nothing happens.

1d Like Reply Share



Gorana Lovasic

you were lucky

1d Like Reply Share



John Manson Author Top contributor

Folks

Does anyone know what they did with all the Fakes?

Did they destroy them or put them into storage?

1d Like Reply Share



John Manson Author Top contributor

Where are they?

1d Like Reply Share



Reply as Ritchie Sinclair



John Manson Author Top contributor

Again...

Does anyone know what they have done with ALL the fakes? ...
Should they be destroyed or resold 20 years from now as authentic?

1d Like Reply Share



Vasile Mosanu



13h Like Reply Share

Facebook Messenger Suite

John Manson and Ritchie Sinclair

October 11 to October 13, 2024



John Manson

End-to-end encrypted

Messages and calls are secured with end-to-end encryption. [Learn More](#)

Oct 11, 2024, 3:00 PM

Ritchie.
Would you kindly give
me your opinion on
the Morriseau?



Oct 11, 2024, 5:48 PM

Hi John. Send me an image of your painting, front & back and details of its provenance, including any documentation related to it and your purchase. Whatever my opinion or the opinion of anyone else if you love it already I guess that's what really matters,

right?

You can now message and call each other and see info like active status and when you have read messages.

Oct 11, 2024, 8:29 PM



absolutly

Oct 12, 2024, 2:11 PM



Hi Ritchie.

I purchased it recently at a small country auction.

Was told by auctioneer if was at a now closed gallery.

Then was discovered in storage.

It is on canvas 33 × 24.

See pictures plus some photos of the exact same image , only on paper .



Sold at Mayberrys.

Oct 12, 2024, 3:11 PM

Thanks John
If you want me to I can assess your painting in detail and provide you with

my analysis and documentation. My fee is \$180 for doing so. My sense however is that your intuition, while keen, may be at odds with your opinion about your painting. Why is my opinion important if you already love it John? Perhaps you are best to just enjoy it for now and eat turkey this weekend rather than talk turkey. In any case I wish you and yours all the very best!

Oct 12, 2024, 5:46 PM

Hi Ritchie.

I purchased it recently at a small country auction.

Was told by auctioneer it was at a now closed gallery.

Then was discovered in storage.

It is on canvas 33 × 24.

See pictures plus some photos of the exact same image, only on paper.



Sold at Mayberrys.

Because I bought it as an investment.

I love all the art I purchase but I also need to make a living.

I'm willing to pay \$180 if I get a firm year or



nay in writing.

Oct 12, 2024, 7:36 PM

Did you receive any documentation? Email me the doc from the auction house and the name of the defunct gallery please. contact@7fires.com

Oct 12, 2024, 8:50 PM

Hi John. Thanks for the email. Yes, unfortunately auction houses are buyer beware forums. I'm curious - how would it be of any value to you in terms of investment if my opinion turned out to be a firm, nay?

Oct 13, 2024, 5:39 AM

I guess it wouldn't be.

Chances are it is a fake and I probably would be wasting my money

.

Thanks for your input to this point.

When I do try to resell , I will be listing it as no gaurentee as to it being genuine.



Thanks

Oct 13, 2024, 10:52 AM

Well you wasted my time and attention. Your thanks does not compensate me. The most valuable thing anyone has is their time, don't you agree?

Oct 13, 2024, 11:20 AM

Sorry you feel that way.
Sounds like you are in it for the \$\$ as opposed to giving art advice.

My time is just as valuable as yours.



Happy Thanksgiving.

Oct 13, 2024, 11:47 AM

Perhaps re-read what you just wrote. I didn't contact you for advice.



Email Suite
John Manson and Ritchie Sinclair
October 12 to October 21, 2024

On Sat, Oct 12, 2024, 8:38 p.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

Purchased at Paris auction affiliated with Gardner Galleries.
Do not know name of closed gallery.

On Sat, Oct 12, 2024, 8:41 p.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

They did not guarantee authenticity.

On Sun, Oct 13, 2024, 2:11 p.m. Ritchie Sinclair contact@7fires.com wrote:

I see you have deleted your Facebook group post and blocked our communications via messenger. I will be publishing an article about our interaction with regard to your painting, and I am writing to offer you an opportunity to comment prior to doing so.

People like yourself, who have watched the documentary and then purchase a painting (for a paltry \$210), pretending it is Morriseau art with the stated intention of reselling it as an investment commodity, show little respect for art, culture, or for those who actually paid the price to protect Morriseau's legacy.

On Sun, Oct 13, 2024, 3:00 p.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

You were the one who pointed out that I would be wasting my money since it probably would be a definite no.
So I listened to you and thanked you.
That was not good enough for you.
So you lectured me.
So I blocked you.

That aside, why did you and the Morriseau group not destroy all the fakes? Saving them for what?

On Sun, Oct 13, 2024, 3:33 p.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

Paid a price? It's yours and others' claim to fame.
The lawyers, the documentary, yourself, etc., made big money.

I have been an art lover all my life and have turned that into a money-making hobby.

I didn't say it was a Morrisseau original, I was looking for opinions.

When I do sell it, it will be with *no guarantee*.
Meanwhile, it hangs lovingly in our home.

On Sun, Oct 13, 2024, 11:37 p.m. Ritchie Sinclair contact@7fires.com wrote:

Dear Mr. Manson,

As a fellow art lover, I have a suggestion for you to consider. Why don't you do the wise and just thing, for both yourself and Canada, by forfeiting your Morrisseau forgery to the police to do with as they see fit?

As we both know, it isn't a Norval Morrisseau painting but instead appears to be a forgery from your neck of the woods, painted by Jeffrey Gordon COWAN. Jeff will either plead guilty, or his case will come to trial early in the new year, so it would be timely to have Jeff or the police add it to the list of forgeries painted and sold by him.

The police have hundreds of paintings that have already been forfeited to them, so yours will just be another one given up by Canadians who care enough to do so.

I suggest that you send an email to Detective Jason Rybak jason.rybak@thunderbaypolice.ca stating where and when you purchased it and that, as a gesture of goodwill, you have chosen not to resell it and would prefer to forfeit it to them. Even though it will mean a loss of the \$210 you paid, I believe you'll feel better for it. Perhaps also let me know when you have done so, to save me any further trouble with regard to this issue.

John, I truly do wish you and yours all the very best going forward,
Ritchie

On Mon, Oct 14, 2024, 7:09 a.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

Dear Mr. Sinclair,
Thanks for your advice, and I will take it into consideration.
Regards,
John

On Mon, Oct 14, 2024, 7:41 a.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

Sorry.
Will take your advice into consideration.

On Mon, Oct 14, 2024, 7:46 a.m. john manson johnmanson06@gmail.com wrote:

Hi Ritchie,
Thanks for your advice, and I will consider it.

John

On Mon, Oct 14, 2024, 10:54 a.m. john manson wrote:

Thanks for your reply.
I will consider it.

On Mon, Oct 21, 2024, 6:43 p.m. Ritchie Sinclair contact@7fires.com wrote:

I didn't hear back from you, John. What's the good word?
