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# Winter Birches at York Redoubt

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**T**he military fort York Redoubt was constructed in 1793, just as war broke out between Britain and France. It was built on a bluff at the narrowest point of the mouth of Halifax Harbour; it overlooks the harbour entrance at Ferguson's Cove, Nova Scotia. A strategically astute choice of location for a redoubt and a stunning one aesthetically. Nowadays York Redoubt is a National Historic Park.

The watercolour *Winter Birches* suggests the breathtaking, expansive view of the site. I have deliberately left out any traces of the defensive fortifications: only the white birches, their blue shadows, and the snow remain.

**IRENE OORE** is a professor of Quebec literature in the French Department at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. She is interested in the visual arts and their relationship to literature.