

BGL: Spectacle + Problems
April 28 to August 26, 2018

Museum London – Ivey Galleries on second floor (wheelchair accessible)



Image: BGL, *Canadassimo, L'Atelier*, 2017 (detail), salvaged wood, acrylic, tin cans, found objects. Collection of BGL. Photo: MNBAQ, Idra Labrie

Opening Reception

Friday, May 11, 8:00 pm Free and open to the public

Artist-led Tour with BGL

Saturday, May 12, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Free and open to the public

A bilingual publication documenting this exhibition is forthcoming this summer.

BGL is an artist collective comprised of Jasmin **B**ilodeau, Sébastien **G**iguère, and Nicolas **L**averdière. Coming together during their art studies at Laval University in Quebec City in the 1990s, the trio quickly gained prominence both nationally and internationally for a practice composed of equal parts intelligence, irreverence, and adventure. Their work includes a range of objects made using found and repurposed materials; immersive installations; performative, sometimes interactive projects; and monumental public sculptures. BGL represented Canada at the 2015 Venice Biennale, transforming the national pavilion into a combination *dépanneur* (corner variety store), artist studio, and gigantic plinko game.

BGL is known for revisioning, or going beyond, the traditional "white cube" gallery space. The artists transform the architecture of their surroundings—from galleries to alleyways—to provoke a reflection on the meaning of art, its roles in society, and the cultural and economic forces shaping our lives.

Spectacle + Problems includes works that highlight different points across BGL's existence. These range from *Chapelle Mobile (Mobile Chapel, 1998)*, a massive wooden skeleton of a neo-Gothic chapel; *Goodnight Darchy (2006)*, a sculptural ode to nostalgia featuring Darth Vader from *Star Wars*; the *Canadassimo L'Atelier (2017)*, a revisioning of their studio from the 2015 Venice Biennale; and the large artificial bonfire *Spectacle + Problèmes (2011-18)*, for which the exhibition is named.

This experiential exhibition includes loans of major works from the National Gallery of Canada, Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, the artists, and prominent private collections.

Please contact Marketing Coordinator, Mitra Shreeram, mshreeram@museumlondon.ca 519-661-0333 x 4246 with any requests for images (web or print reproduction) and interviews with the artists or curator.

HOURS:

Tuesday to Sunday 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

Thursday 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm

Opens at 11:00 am from May 22 to September 2

Closed Monday

Admission by donation.

Museum London is **wheelchair accessible**, more detailed information can be found here:

<http://museumlondon.ca/visit> and please contact 519-661-0333 if you have any questions regarding accessibility.

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#SpectacleProblems