NEW Museum London T-shirt!

We asked the community which icons come to mind when thinking of Museum London, the Forks of the Thames/Deshkan Ziibi, and the surrounding area. We received great feedback, and your responses were the inspiration for local designer Soft Flirt’s new Summer Camp t-shirt for 2023.

A limited-edition adult t-shirt will be available in the Shop for $40.00. Visit shop.museumlondon.ca for more information.
A Message from the Executive Director

I ask almost everybody I meet when they last visited the Museum. While many Londoners know the Museum and have grown up with us, others recognize our iconic building but haven’t yet been inside. Some have described Museum London as “a hidden gem.” Busy schedules make it hard; downtown construction is like an obstacle course, and some also say they don’t know what’s on offer and what to expect—they wonder if they will feel welcome.

Whether you are a Museum London newcomer or you’re a regular, on behalf of our team, I extend a very warm invitation to you—this summer, make the most of the Museum. This place is here for you: for learning, inspiration, connection, and fun.

Here are five things we want you to know:

1) Entry is free! The experiences we offer here are valuable, but we don’t want financial barriers to keep anyone away. We are a non-profit that gratefully accepts donations and offers tax receipts for gifts over $20.

2) Come as you are. Don’t dress up. Or do. We’re happy if you’re casual. We’re happy if you’re fancy.

3) The artwork and artifacts we care for and exhibit are unique, one-of-a-kind, and they are the real thing. Digital technology and our devices create amazing possibilities, but nothing replaces the experience of being in the physical presence of an original artwork or the real artifact.

4) The Museum has a beautiful terrace that looks towards the river and over Ron Benner’s outdoor garden artwork As the Crow Flies. Grab a treat from our friends at The Rhino Lounge and enjoy the view.

5) It doesn’t have to be a special occasion. You don’t need a ticket. Take it slow and make an afternoon of it—see all seven exhibitions, have lunch & visit the Shop—or spend 20 minutes and leave feeling refreshed.

Summer flies by, and time is truly the most precious resource. To slow down, to cool off, to experience art, history and connection, make Museum London your place and bring your friends along! We’ll be glad to welcome you.

See you soon!
Julie Bevan, Executive Director
Ithin-eh-wuk—we place ourselves at the center: James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk

May 27 to September 10, 2023
Ivey Galleries, Second Level

This exhibition traces the 15-year creative collaboration between James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk, from their meeting in 1993 until Nicholas’s accidental death in 2007. The photo-installations and videos in this exhibition unveil the effects of colonialism through the lens of their intercultural marriage, revealing a commitment to dialogue in which Semchuk’s identity as the child of Ukrainian-Canadian settlers from Saskatchewan meets Nicholas’s experiences as a Rock Cree man from Manitoba.

The title of the exhibition is taken from the 2005 installation understoryoverstory, a set of photographs of an abandoned road in northern Saskatchewan, one originally built by Cree workers under the direction of Semchuk’s father. In the accompanying texts, Semchuk—who lived in London, Ontario in the 1980s—reflects on her father’s respect for the Cree even as he opened their land to development, Nicholas responds with forceful poetry about the rights of ithin-eh-wuk, his people.
listen, acknowledge that we exist
we are not shadows of shadow cultures
we have inherent rights to the land our laws of being
ithin-eh-wuk
we place ourselves at the center


Ithin-eh-wuk—we place ourselves at the center: James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk is organized and circulated by the MacKenzie Art Gallery. The MacKenzie receives ongoing support from the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Sask Lotteries, City of Regina, University of Regina, and SK Arts.
Fragments of Everything and Nothing: Colin Carney and Amy Friend

June 3 to October 8, 2023

Interior Gallery, Second Level

The enigmatic work of lens-based artists Colin Carney and Amy Friend comes together to offer viewers new relationships between fact and fiction. Their experimental photography takes us on an exploration of physical space, time, and memory.

While their conceptual and aesthetic concerns are similar, Carney and Friend produce their imagery using different methods. Each artist disrupts conventional understandings of photographic representation. Carney’s forested scenes transcend the pared-down symbols long used to define Canadian cultural identity. Friend also unmoors imagery from expected associations, allowing the viewer to conjure new narratives.

This exhibition celebrates the innovative practices of artists from this region. Carney resides in Guelph and is an instructor at the University of Guelph and Western University. Originally from Windsor, Friend lives in St. Catharines, where she is Associate Professor and Chair of Visual Arts at Brock University.


Getting Around London

June 17, 2023 to April 21, 2024

Community Gallery, Second Level

This exhibition of images from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries explores how Londoners traveled in and around the city over time. It begins by highlighting the Thames River/Deshkan Ziibi. The Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee traveled its waters before and after the arrival of newcomers. The exhibition also explores horses, bicycles, automobiles, trains, and airplanes as modes of transportation, as well as the infrastructure and services that supported them. All of these shaped London as they connected the city and its residents to the world.

Getting Around London invites you to look at the London of the past in new ways. It encourages you to think about how modes of transportation shaped Londoners’ experience of the city and its development. It also asks you to consider the future, something that our current climate emergency makes particularly urgent.
MEDIAH: SPECTRAL VANE

June 10, 2023 to March 3, 2024
Atrium, Main Level

MEDIAH is the pseudonym of Evond Blake, a Toronto-born artist based in London, Ontario. He has exhibited internationally and undertaken monumental mural and animation commissions across the country. Through painting and printmaking, murals, digital animation, and virtual reality experiences, MEDIAH has established a recognizable aesthetic with bold colour and planar forms that impart a sense of constant speed, transformation, and dynamism.

SPECTRAL VANE is a special commission for Museum London, which MEDIAH describes as a “dimensional looking glass,” as it captures elements of shifting time and the seasons in response to its placement near the Centre at the Forks.
London Remembers

June 3 to December 10, 2023
Front Entrance, Main Level

June 6, 2023 is the second anniversary of the Islamophobic killing of four Londoners: Talat Afzaal (74), Salman Afzaal (46), Yumnah Afzaal (15), and Madiha Salman (44). To mark this tragedy, the London artist Aruba Mahmud and the Youth Coalition Combating Islamophobia (YCCI) have facilitated a community art project.

In April, YCCI held workshops across London, inviting community members to share messages of remembrance, love, and healing on purple hexagons. Purple was Yumnah’s favourite colour and the hexagons represent us all coming together to foster community healing and rebuilding. Created from a selection of the message-bearing hexagons, the final mural illustrates Londoners’ stand against Islamophobia.

London Remembers embodies what YCCI is all about—a group of Muslim youth and their adult mentors who have created a forum to raise their voices, call for change, and combat Islamophobia. Through workshops, events, and educational resources, YCCI empowers others to do the same.

By recognizing that Islamophobia exists in daily acts of prejudice as well as in horrific acts of violence, we can bring about positive change. By doing the work of confronting and changing our own biases, we can dismantle Islamophobia together.

Images courtesy of Aruba Mahmud and the Youth Coalition Combating Islamophobia.
Southwest Seen

Until August 10, 2023

Centre at the Forks window (nighttime)

Southwest Seen features three new video commissions by artists connected to this region. Projections by Calla Moya and Racquel Rowe were featured during the winter and spring with Jude Abu Zaineh’s video FORMations concluding this series.

FORMations reflects the natural ecology of Southwestern Ontario’s food and flora. Abu Zaineh’s video focuses on isolated samples of the earth, collected plant species, and leftover foods within a petri dish.

Southwest Seen is a partnership with Windsor-Detroit’s Media City Film Festival (MCFF), which is hosting the works online from July 10 to August 10. Partners include MCFF’s Artistic Director Oona Mosna; the London Ontario Media Arts Association (LOMAA) (Christine Negus); and jury members Evond Blake (aka MEDIAH), Anahí González Terán, and Amanda Myers/Kitaay Bizhikikwe.

Note: During private events and on statutory holidays the projections will not be on view. You can call ahead to double check.

Southwest Seen

Summer Launch Party

Join us to celebrate the opening of our summer exhibitions with snacks, drinks, and music! Artists Evond Blake, Colin Carney, Amy Friend, Aruba Mahmud, Sandra Semchuk, and Jude Abu Zaineh will be in attendance.

Thursday, June 29, 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm // Throughout the Museum // Free

Southwest Seen


We would like to acknowledge funding support from the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario.
If you have a passion for collecting, you will feel a sense of kinship with the three Londoners featured in London Collectors. Millicent Giddens, Edward Phelps, and Dr. J. Malcolm Smith each found certain items irresistible. For Giddens, pressed glass, ornamental dishware, and china figurines inspired an urge to collect. Phelps, a librarian and history buff, collected objects and ephemera that captured aspects of London’s and the region’s history. As for Dr. J. Malcolm Smith, he fueled his love of collecting objects from and about London.

London: A History
Ongoing
Lawson Family Gallery, Lower Level

Have you ever wondered how London has come to be the city we know today? This exhibition presents a glimpse of our community and how it has evolved over time. Featuring over 300 historical artifacts, images, and stories about the Forest City, it will give you some insight into the people, events, and issues that have shaped the community.

Go Beck Go Pennant, 20th Century.
Western Pennant, 1940s. Gift of Alan Cohen, 2013.
Taking the Long View: 
The Museum London Art Collection

Ongoing
Volunteer & Moore Galleries, Second Level

Comprising well-loved treasures from the vaults, intriguing, though lesser-known gems, and recent acquisitions of modern and contemporary art, this exhibition provides a survey of art acquired over 80 years. It includes work by many well-known Canadian artists such as Jack Chambers, Lawren Harris, Jamelie Hassan, Kent Monkman, Kim Ondaatje, and Paul Peel.


Donate to Museum London

At Museum London, we believe that art and history should be free and accessible to everyone. Our continued success depends on the generous support of donors and patrons like you. With every donation, you are helping us deliver exceptional exhibitions and opportunities for learning through history and art for people of all ages. Your support enables us to host events and activities that bring the community together and make London a more vibrant place to visit and live.

Your donation, no matter the size, plays a vital role in ensuring that we can continue to make a positive impact. Your involvement will help us continue our essential work, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

If you would like more information about supporting Museum London or to make a gift, visit museumlondon.ca/donate or contact Linda O’Connor at loconnor@museumlondon.ca.
Sunday Tours

Ongoing
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Meet at the Welcome Desk
Free

Drop in and join our knowledgeable guides for exhibition tours. Sunday Tours are capped at 15 people.
For larger groups, please call 519-661-0333 to arrange a private tour.

Walking Tours

Learn more about the city on walking tours (rain or shine) led by experienced guides who will share architectural and cultural stories.

Cost: $10 to $15, pre-registration is required, details at museumlondon.ca/walkingtours

Heaven and Hell

Saturdays: May 27, July 1, August 5, September 9
10:30 am to 11:30 am

From soaring gothic cathedrals to the surviving ale houses of “Whiskey Row”, follow this 19th-century architectural tale of our historic churches and taverns.
Digging Dundas

Saturdays: June 3, July 8, August 12, September 16
10:30 am to 11:30 am

Take a walk down London’s oldest street! Discover hidden sculptures, new murals, art deco carvings, and the story of a famous engineering calamity.

Castles to Cottages

Saturdays: June 10, July 15, August 19, September 23
10:30 am to 11:30 am

Tour along Ridout Street’s confederation-era cottages, Victorian architecture, our famous court house castle, and the city’s oldest remaining home—haunted of course.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Saturdays: June 17, July 22, August 26, September 30
10:30 am to 11:30 am

Discover 20 architectural details in downtown London buildings that tell their history. Often overlooked as people pass by, these details include unique sculptures, date stones, and even an oddball clock.

Bats, Beans, and Bridges

Saturdays: June 24, July 29, September 2
10:30 am to 11:30 am

Explore the historic Blackfriars neighbourhood with a closer look at our beloved refurbished bridge, a 19th-century homestead, and the world’s oldest continually operating baseball grounds!

Hidden Secrets of Downtown

Thursdays: June 1, 15, 29, July 13, 27, August 31, September 14, 28
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Discover the secrets of London’s past hidden in plain sight: a notorious ghost, a clock with a mystery, a life-sized thermometer, a special musical gift to London from the Dutch, and our favourite art deco tower.

Murals of Downtown

Thursdays: June 8, 22, July 6, 20, August 24, September 7, 21
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Immerse yourself in the thought-provoking murals of downtown, each telling a unique story. These larger-than-life artworks beautify the city and we can’t wait to show you the newest works alongside the older ones.
Afterschool Art Club (Age: 7 to 12)

Thursdays, June 1, 8, 15, and 22
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Cost: $80 per person (4 sessions)

Thursdays, September 7, 14, and 28
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Cost: $60 per person (3 sessions)

Not enough art at school? Looking for a creative community to connect with? Join us after school and release your creative energy. Each week discover a new artistic medium and explore its possibilities.

Camera-less 16mm Youth Film Workshop

Saturday, June 10
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Age: 14 to 18
Cost: $25 all materials included

Create your own camera-less 16mm film loops. Learn the basics of creating moving images by hand and explore techniques to create visual effects in experimental filmmaking. Work directly on film celluloid to create abstract painted film or go frame-by-frame with hand-drawn animation.

London Ontario Media Arts Association’s (LOMAA) experienced instructor will introduce participants to examples of works made by artists, filmmakers, and animators who have created films and soundtracks without a camera. Afterwards, learn about the possibilities for young filmmakers in the city with the Forest City Youth Film Festival.
Intro to It All! Father’s Day Edition

Sunday, June 11
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Age: 4 to 6 with guardian
Cost: $10 per guardian and child, $2.50 per additional child

In this edition of Intro to It All, children and caregivers will create robot keychains, handprint magnets, and rad dad photo holders.

Canada Day at the Museum

Saturday, July 1
12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Free

Bring the family for a fun afternoon of exhibition-related activities and art-making inspired by Canadian and Indigenous art and history.

Summer Camps at the Museum

SOLD OUT – Join us next year!

Our camps for children and youth ages 6 to 12, are fun, safe, and educational. Sign up for our newsletter at museumlondon.ca to be the first to know about upcoming programs.

Cross Cultural Beading Circle on the Terrace

Sundays, June 4, 18, July 16, 30, August 13, 27, September 3, 10, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Cost: $20 per session, registration required
Age: 18+

Celebrate National Indigenous History Month by joining us on our terrace for a new series of summer beading circle workshops. Local Mi’kmaq beadwork artist Mikaila Stevens (flourishandgrow.ca) teaches contemporary and traditional beading techniques. Create your own beaded appliqué and explore the rich history of beading. Materials included in registration fee.

Magisterra at the Museum

Sunday, July 9
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Cost: $11 to $38
Guests: clarinetist Peter Shackleton and bassoonist Julie Shier.
Doors Open: London’s Heritage Through Cuisine

Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17
11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Free

Join artist Ron Benner on Saturday from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm for our annual outdoor corn roast. Enjoy corn on the cob with butter, salt, chili powder, and lime juice freshly roasted from Benner’s Maiz Barbacoa — part corn roaster and part sculpture. Live acoustic music by Frank Ridsdale accompanies this feast.

On Sunday from 12:00 pm to 12:40 pm, London Symphonia presents an informal cushion concert for ages 3+ with music from around the globe and will be followed by a Q&A with the musicians. Nourish your creative appetite at Centre at the Forks. Drop-in and draw, paint, and present your favourite dish upon our community tablescape from 1 pm to 4:00. Parents must be present with their children.

A scavenger hunt for food-themed art and artifacts in our exhibitions is available at our front desk upon request and while supplies last.

This event is in partnership with the London Heritage Council.

Bilingual Franco-Ontario Day Workshop

Sunday, September 24
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Age: 6 to 12
Cost: $5, registration required

Bienvenue! In this bilingual workshop, begin or practice your French language learning, discover the history of the Franco-Ontarian flag, and create your own green and white bandana!

Education Programs

Art, History, and Studio Programs

Ongoing, 2023–24 School Year

A school visit to Museum London offers an immersive, curriculum-based experience for students based on the region’s art and history.

School tours and programs are offered throughout the school year Tuesday to Friday (9:30 am to 2:30 pm). Program options range from 1 to 2 hours and cost $4 to $6 per student. These programs are generously supported by Canada Life.

Visit museumlondon.ca/school-programs to learn more and contact Devon Elliott, Curator of Education, for more information email: delliott@museumlondon.ca
Shop Museum London

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday until 8:00 pm

Your one-stop shop for unique gifts: art, hand-crafted ceramics, jewelry, one-of-a-kind works by local artisans, and so much more!
Shop online at: shop.museumlondon.ca

The River Room

Outstanding food and service in a stunning space with fabulous river views. For hours, menus, and reservations, visit: theriverroom.ca

Rhino Lounge

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Thursday until 8:00 pm

A café by day and a fully licensed lounge at night. Treat yourself to housemade cronuts, croissants, light meals (vegan options), and an assortment of craft beer and wine.
For more information visit: rhinolounge.ca

Accessibility

There are two accessible parking spaces at the main entrance, a wheelchair accessible ground-level main entrance with push button doors, an elevator, accessible washrooms, and a complimentary transport chair.
For more information visit: museumlondon.ca/accessibility

Get Involved

We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available including Tour Guide, Camp Assistant, Retail & Art Sales Assistant and more!
For information, visit: museumlondon.ca/volunteer

Rent the Museum

For your next event, impress your guests with features you can’t get anywhere else in the city: two-storey floor to ceiling windows overlooking the Thames River/Deshkan Ziibi, skylights streaming natural light, state of the art audio-visual equipment, and 20-foot high vaulted ceilings.

Book a room or book all three floors. Our experienced events team is happy to help you through all phases of your event.

For details contact: events@museumlondon.ca
519-661-0333 x 4265
Transportation & Parking

We are a 5 minute walk from the bus hub at Queens Ave. and Richmond St. Park in our lot (Municipal Lot #19) at a rate of $2.50/hour and a flat rate of $6 after 6:00 pm. Vouchers must be purchased at the machine (credit card or coins) or use the HonkMobile app (Zone 2186). Use promo code CORE for 2 hours of free parking. Nearby on-street metered parking is also available. More information at museumlondon.ca/parking.
With humility and respect we acknowledge that Museum London sits at the forks of the Deshkan Ziibi on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron.

Our Purpose
Honouring and amplifying our interconnections

Our Vision
A leading art and history resource that connects communities, inspires change, challenges ways of thinking, and ignites creativity towards a more just world

Our Mission
Museum London mobilizes art and history to build community and co-create an inspired future

Hours
Wednesday to Sunday
11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursdays until 8:00 pm

Admission is free
Everyone welcome

Stay Connected
@museumlondon

Cover Image: