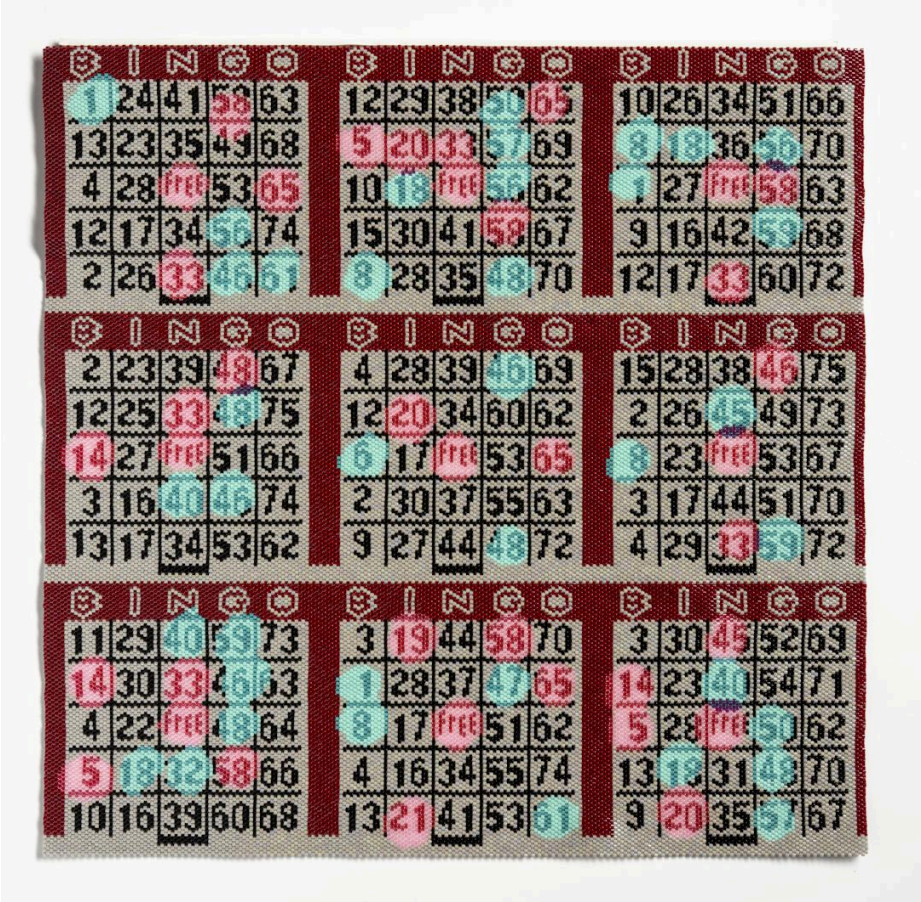
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Nico Williams, NDN Hustle (detail), 2024-5, 11/0 Japanese glass cylinder beads on thermally-fused/braided polyethylene thread, Courtesy of the artist, Photo: Paul Litherland.

# From Bealart to National Acclaim: Nico Williams Brings Landmark Exhibition Home to London

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**London, ON — OCT 19, 2026** — Museum London is proud to present *Nico Williams: Bingo*, the first major solo exhibition at a museum by nationally renowned, Sobey Award-winning artist Nico Williams. The exhibition brings together a vibrant collection of large-scale beadwork and sculpture, including a newly commissioned work created specifically for Museum London in memory of Dudley George.

A member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Anishinaabe) and a graduate of London's celebrated Bealart program, Williams returns to Southwestern Ontario with an exhibition that is sure to captivate audiences. In *Bingo*, Williams draws inspiration from everyday objects and pop culture imagery. Through dazzling compositions made from thousands of tiny glass beads, Williams transforms ordinary objects into extraordinary works of art,

elevating everything from VHS tapes and lottery tickets to grocery flyers, clothing, and commercial packaging.

At once playful, technically masterful, and conceptually rich, Bingo challenges long-held distinctions between art and craft while inviting audiences to reconsider the value, meaning and stories embedded in everyday objects.

The exhibition comes to Museum London from PHI Foundation in Montréal, where Nico is now based and where *Bingo* debuted to critical acclaim.

Inspired by the popular community game, *Bingo* explores themes of chance, value, exchange, and belonging. Drawing connections between the history of bingo and the global circulation of glass beads, Williams traces how the trade of Venetian beads introduced through colonial exchange  became woven into Indigenous artistic traditions across Turtle Island. Through humour, beauty, and meticulous craftsmanship, the exhibition opens conversations about economics, cultural hierarchies, resilience, and the ways materials carry history.




Nico Williams, *Feast*, 2024, 10/0 Japanese glass cylinder beads, 11/0 seed beads and 11/0 silver-lined beads on thermally-fused/braided polyethylene thread, 49 wooden spoons, Courtesy of Dell Pohlman and Lauren Raymore Pohlman and the artist, Photo: Paul Litherland.

Museum London Art Curator, Cassandra Getty, believes audiences will be struck by both the ambition and relevance of Williams's work. "I was amazed to experience *Bingo* at PHI in Montreal in 2025, and I'm even more excited to present it here in a different configuration. Indigenous artists are creating some of the most innovative and exciting work around the world today, and Sobey Award-winning Nico Williams is at the top of his game."

Williams is a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation and an active participant in Montréal's urban Indigenous arts community. His work has been exhibited at leading institutions across the country, including the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, and the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

*Nico Williams: Bingo* opens October 31, 2026, in ML's Ivey Galleries and continues through April 4, 2027, organized by PHI Foundation and presented in collaboration with Museum London.

## Public Programs

Museum London will be hosting a Bingo Night in collaboration with the artist on November 5. Williams, alongside our host Sara Mai Chitty will be facilitating up to ten rounds of bingo with prizes included. The evening will also feature a Beadwork Market in the Museum Atrium hosted by local indigenous artists and makers. Visitors can shop handcrafted beadwork,

jewellery, accessories, and other one-of-a-kind creations while supporting local Indigenous entrepreneurship and creative practice.

The exhibition will be further celebrated during Museum London's Fall Launch Party on November 19, alongside the Museum's newest exhibitions and programs.

**About Museum London**
Museum London mobilizes art and history to build community and co-create an inspired future. Through exhibitions, programs, and events, we connect communities, challenge ways of thinking, and ignite creativity toward a more just world.

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