



Neurodiversity Awareness Day at the MMFA

Description

An opportunity to create and discover together as we celebrate our differences on Sunday, April 14

As part of **Autism Month**, the **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA)**, **Autisme sans limites**, the **Fondation Les Petits Rois**, **Giant Steps School** and the **Gold Centre** are joining forces to raise public awareness of neurodiversity. On **April 14**, from 10 am to 4 pm, the Museum is presenting a series of art activities for young and old alike, who are invited to discover what unites us in spite of our differences.

Through art, the creative activities offered celebrate individual expression and strengths.

Open to the general public, the **MMFA's Neurodiversity Awareness Day** is aimed at encouraging the inclusion of people living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), for example, emphasizing that everyone has a role to play in our society. It is an opportunity to come together to combat the prejudice and social exclusion that affects some people who are "neurodifferent." Through art, the creative activities offered celebrate individual expression and strengths.

Throughout this special day, the Museum's mediators and volunteers working with partner organizations will be on hand to support the participants and answer their questions. A quiet area will also be set up to provide a calm refuge.

What is neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity is the positive recognition of the fact that human beings are neurologically diverse. This variability can manifest itself in various ways in those affected by an autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and disorders such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. The concept of neurodiversity is intended to destigmatize people who are neurodifferent and recognize their potential within society.

Program



Joy, fear, anger, sadness: find the emotions hidden in the Museum's works

In groups of two or more, armed with a map of the Museum and emoticons, set off in search of works in the Museum's various pavilions. Share the emotions they spark in you with others. In collaboration with Autisme sans limites.

10 am to noon

Meeting place: **Art Hive** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: Adults and children aged 6 and up, accompanied by an adult

Four-handed workshop: Mr. And Mrs. Dress-Up

The four-handed workshop is designed especially for young children and their parents. Using the collage technique, participants dress a paper doll in trendy fashions.

10:15 am to 11 am

11:15 am to noon

Where: **Studio 3** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: Children aged 2 to 5 accompanied by an adult

Drop-In Workshop: Wild Things

Using pipe cleaners and various fabrics, create an ephemeral outfit inspired by the fantasy world of Thierry Mugler, subject of an exhibition at the Museum.

11 am to 4 pm

Where: **Studios 4 & 5** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: children aged 6 and up, accompanied by an adult.

Children's film: *Mia et le Migou*

Director: Jacques-Rémy Girerd, France, 2008, animation, 91 min, French – In French

1 pm

Where: **Studio 7** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: 6 and up

Art workshop: Writing In Clay

Using a printing technique on clay, create and decorate a bas-relief, giving free rein to your imagination. In collaboration with the Fondation les Petits rois.

1 pm to 2 pm

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Where: **Studio 2** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: Adults and children accompanied by an adult

Themed Workshop: We Can Be Heroes

Who are the new strong-minded heroes and heroines? Design and colour your own Pop comic character



inspired by the world of Thierry Mugler.

1 pm to 2 pm

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Where: **Studio 3** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: children aged 6 and up, accompanied by an adult

Art Hive

The Art Hive is a place where everyone can meet and share ideas! It offers a wide array of activities: create something from scratch using old unravelled sweaters, make a sculpture out of recycled materials, draw, sew or paint.

1 pm to 4 pm

Where: **Art Hive** – Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Ages: all age groups

The Art of Being Unique at the MMFA

In 2015, the MMFA launched *The Art of Being Unique*, a program designed to make art more accessible to people with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or an intellectual disability. Every week, in collaboration with the Gold Centre, the Museum offers art workshops and social activities for people aged 21 and older who are living with intellectual disabilities.

Young people with an ASD who attend Irénée-Lussier school also take part in visits and workshops at the Museum, which are provided free of charge. The Museum welcomes young people with autism as part of an art therapy project focused on the recognition and expression of emotions, in collaboration with Autisme Sans Limites.

In collaboration with Les Petits Rois Foundation and Miriam Home and Services, young adults also work with Museum staff, assisting them in their daily tasks, to facilitate their social and employment integration. In addition, the MMFA supports the career development of young artists such as Maxwell Bitton, whose works were showcased at the Museum in 2016.

Acknowledgments

Michel de la Chenelière International Atelier for Education and Art Therapy

Major Patron: Fondation de la Chenelière

Art therapy programs

Major Patron: Rossy Family Foundation

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“The Art of Being Unique” program

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Neurodiversity Awareness Day at the MMFA

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts



1380 Sherbrooke W
Sunday April 14, from 10 am to 4 pm
Free! Limited places

Feature image: Mikaël Theimer (MKI)

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Couturissime



Boasting more than 1.3 million visitors annually, the **MMFA** is one of Canada's most visited museums and the eighth-most visited museum in North America. The Museum's original temporary exhibitions combine various artistic disciplines – fine arts, music, film, fashion and design – and are exported around the world. Its rich encyclopedic collection, distributed among five pavilions, includes international art, world cultures, decorative arts and design, and Quebec and Canadian art. For more information, consult the Website mbam.qc.ca



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