

Press Release



Unveiling the first annual West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC), beginning with a free Open Studio Day in mid-August!

MONTREAL, June 20, 2025 - The West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC) is proud to present its inaugural season, opening with a not to be missed event. On Aug. 16, 2025 (Aug. 17 in case of rain), from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the WIASC Open Studio Day offers a rare glimpse into the creative spaces of 11 visual artists across the West Island.

"There are so many visual arts events downtown, and in the surrounding boroughs, that the West Island often gets overlooked," said Sandra Woods, WIASC Founder, Disabled artist and Veteran. "The West Island Art Studio Circuit aims to change that, with several dynamic and free activities this summer and fall. The debut event is an Open Studio Day in mid-August, a concept already popular in Europe and the United Kingdom but just starting to catch on in North America – so come out and be part of a new trend!"

The WIASC Mission Statement notes that: "Exhibitions, museums, and other visual arts venues present artists' finished works, not the messy and often chaotic stages of the creative process that underpin each piece. We want to pull back the curtains to share these behind-the-scenes aspects of the visual arts... Opening our studios across the West Island to the public for a day will create the kinds of one-on-one and small group conversations that foster true and lasting connections between artists and the communities in which we create."

Whether visitors pedal, roll or walk to the studios closest to them, or complete the whole circuit, this unique one-day event is an opportunity to explore local arts in an entirely new way. The suggested circuit for cyclists is from Ile-Bizard to Pierrefonds West, Beaconsfield, Kirkland, Pointe-Claire, Dollard-des-Ormeaux and Pierrefonds East – and then back to public parking lots in Ile-Bizard for those who drove with their bicycles.

"Several artists will integrate outdoor displays for the day, e.g., showing how they paint *en plein-air* [outdoors] in the style of renowned artists from Claude Monet to John Singer Sargent and Canada's own Group of Seven, Emily Carr, Helen McNicoll and Tom Thomson. #ArtsCircuit selfie stands will be on hand at most studios, as part of this trendsetting cultural experience!" Woods added.



WIASC artist Caroline Donati in her studio

Additional WIASC 2025 activities will include a café-exhibition in September and a virtual 3D exhibition from October through the end of December. Is there an artist in your neighbourhood, maybe even on your block? Find out, and discover how different artists configure their studios, what inspires them and why they're driven to create - in the heart of our communities.

Do something original this summer – participate in a brand-new arts event, close to home!

About the West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC)

The West Island Art Studio Circuit (WIASC) was founded in 2024 as an ad hoc "Visual Arts Group", defined by the [Canada Council for the Arts](#) as: "independent professional artists in the visual arts (as defined by the Council), each with a professional practice and who come together for one-time or occasional projects."

For more information about the WIASC 2025 Open Studio Day and other activities, visit www.wiasc.ca.

SOURCE West Island Art Studio Circuit

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