

About our studios

Les Ateliers 6235 is a small, vibrant and commercial building on Papineau Street. Since 2002, it has housed ten studios for artists. Conscious of the insecurity linked to rented studios, the four artist-owners of the building guaranteed themselves long-term studios by buying the building and offering other studio spaces within the building for rent. The legal documents for Les Ateliers 6235 include reference to the artistic vocation of the building, which over the years has helped to create a community of artists of various disciplines. The entire building is dedicated to studio spaces, except for the staircase and the three landings. These common spaces become important places of exchanges and conversation, and they are where, in the ordinary back-and-forth of the building, we came up with the idea for this project and exhibition.

The artists at Les Ateliers 6235 are driven by two motivations. One is to take advantage of our studio spaces to make, share, and exhibit our works of art. The second is linked to the evictions of many artists from their studios in our neighborhood of Rosemont-Petite-Patrie. Many larger buildings in our area have been sold to major companies with local, national, and international commercial agendas. We believe that spaces for artists should remain an essential component of this area of the city.

Artists of all ages, from those who are starting out to those who are established, benefit when they have the opportunity to share news of exhibitions, trips, prizes, grants, and local, national, and international successes. They also exchange services, and they encourage and comfort each other in the inevitable day-to-day struggles that artists face. Other shared initiatives include workshops, classes, sharing studio space, concerts, one-off events, and exhibitions—all of which are welcome and necessary to maintain our collective efforts to have a working environment that offers long-term homes for our endeavours and our aspirations.

Our studios are alive. They can, as is evident with this three-weekend event, become venues for exhibitions and other cultural activities. Montreal has always had a dynamic and rich cultural scene, although it is perhaps less easy these days to access exhibition venues and affordable studio spaces. This harsh reality has been well documented. The historic vitality of Montreal's cultural life is not the issue—what can be a concern is the opportunity for art spaces to continuously renew themselves, in the face of rising rents and traditional warehouse spaces being taken over by corporate interests.