MUSEUM LONDON

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Supersampler exhibition spotlights work of London artist



Image: Mark Stebbins, Supersampler, 2024 acrylic on burlap on wood panel. Courtesy of Galerie Simon Blais, Montréal, Québec

Museum London Unveils Supersampler - A Decade of Groundbreaking Work by London Artist Mark Stebbins

Exhibition showcases the intersection of art, technology, and history, inviting audiences to explore the evolving role of painting in a digital world.

London, ON - Museum London is excited to announce the opening of *Supersampler*, a stunning exhibition featuring a decade of innovative work by London-based artist Mark Stebbins. Known for his bold grid paintings and signature glitch motifs, Stebbins pushes the boundaries of visual art with

his densely layered canvases, which explore the intersection of technology, image-making, and textile patterns. Drawing on influences from digital media and found photographs, his works blur the lines between realism and abstraction, creating an immersive experience for the viewer.

Stebbins has long been fascinated by the histories of image-making—how we see and interpret photos, symbols, and scenes. He invites the audience to engage in what he calls "visual questions" through his work, prompting deeper reflection on how we understand the world around us.

"I want my work to pose questions about what we see, how we see it, and why it affects us. My goal is to create a dialogue that explores the relationships between images, technology, and our collective memory," said Stebbins.

Each of Stebbins' meticulously crafted paintings, though modest in size, contains thousands of individual brushstrokes and a remarkable palette of hundreds of custom-mixed acrylic shades. Through intricate contrast and texture, his tiny strokes vibrantly come to life, resembling pixelated screens or textile stitches. Stebbins' work recalls significant art movements from the past, from the pointillism of the 19th century to mid-20th century abstraction. Notably, a new series created specifically for *Supersampler* takes inspiration from artifacts housed in Museum London's own material culture collection, referencing historical embroidery samplers that date back over 200 years.

Stebbins' latest works offer an engaging conversation about originality, craftsmanship, and the shifting role of traditional painting in an increasingly virtual world.

"Borrowing and personalizing diverse elements are important parts of both folk art and Stebbins' practice," shared Museum London's Curator of Art, Cassandra Getty. "His exploration of our collection vaults introduced him to historic textile samplers from London's past, some dating back more than 200 years. Our material culture and art collections are a valuable resource for understanding the past and informing the future."

Mark Stebbins, a celebrated local artist, has exhibited across Canada and internationally in public, commercial, and artist-run galleries. His works are part of numerous private and public collections, earning him widespread recognition.

"It's terrific to showcase this kind of local talent at Museum London," said Julie Bevan, Executive Director of Museum London. "By supporting artists living and working locally and sharing their unique perspectives with our regional and national audiences, we celebrate and enrich our city's cultural fabric. Mark's work beautifully demonstrates how art and history can exist in lively dialogue, underpinning the kind of interconnection we strive to facilitate throughout our work at Museum

London. I congratulate Mark on this exhibition and hope that audiences will enjoy the experience of these paintings."

Mark Stebbins: Supersampler will be on view at Museum London from February 15 to August 17, 2025. A forthcoming catalogue in support of this exhibition will be co-published by Museum London and Galerie Simon Blais later this Spring. The museum will also host a childrens PA Day Art Camp inspired by the artist's work, as well as related public programs, including:

Imagination Station: Pixelated Weaving

Drop-in studio program for all ages | Every Sunday in March (2, 9, 16, 23, 30) \$5 per child, FREE for children under 3 years

Ink Painting with Mark Stebbins

Adult art classes | Saturday, March 1, April 5 and May 24 \$75 per class (materials included), registration required

More information about Museum London's current and upcoming programming, hours of operation, location, and more, visit <u>museumlondon.ca</u>.

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For more information, high resolution images or interview requests, please contact:

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