



the print magazine you didn't know you needed

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# April Edition

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Welcome to XPLOREmtl, the magazine by Montrealers, for Montrealers!

We're here to help you discover this wonderful city a little bit better. Tour guides are overrated, and they only explore the corniest, most boring relics. We're here to offer you the real fun stuff. Find out about the newest bars, trends, shops to check out, art and music festivals, sports and much more! There's a reason everyone loves to visit this city, as it has so much to offer. Not only is it beautiful, with modern architecture to compliment the still existing French-Canadian corners; we're looking at you, old port! Our city is also ridden with all kinds of entertainment and we want to help you Xplore all of it in it's extensive grandeur. Our magazine caters to both tourists and local residents of the city of Montreal and its

surrounding towns, all over and outside of the island. Residents of the West island section of Montreal are often more aware of highly advertised, surface events and elements of the city, such as Ile Soniq or Hockey games. But there's so much more! Museums are trendy but their highly eventful special weekends often go unnoticed. There are many small boutiques and thrift shops hidden in the inner-corners of downtown MTL, and everyone has been longing to find out where they are situated since Macklemore's "Thrift Shop" was released in 2012. We're here to help! Foodies like me and you are also becoming more and more common, and Montreal is the El Dorado of hole-in-the-wall eateries. We're trying to help you find all of them, from rooftop bars to underground speakeasies. We also want to put an emphasis on things to explore that are walking distance from the STM metro system, firstly for convenience and secondly to promote AZUR, Montreal's brand new, futuristic line of metro cars. We are a magazine you can turn to whenever you might want to discover everything from old to new, either to enjoy memorable vacation stays or just to know more about where you live! Or maybe even to show a date around...

Best Regards,  
Sonya Adelman,  
Editor in Chief at XPLOREmtl



**Maria Vidoza** 's professional life is an intriguing one and a self-development success story. She started off developing her love for the design world at a young age. Therefore, she found that the path she should follow is graphic Design. As she worked in the field, she developed experience regarding her writing and designing skills that are now at ultimate level of excellence. She went on to work for multiple magazine and publishing companies that were loving her enthusiastic and ambitious ways of expressing herself. Her brother had been the owner of multiple companies and had passed one down to her. She took that company and blasted it into being one of the most successful web application companies on the market. The application consisted of a social media platform such like Instagram but refined and made into a better more positive platform. As the latest news of her, owning a company is great but she is looking to going back a little to her roots as a writer in order to share her knowledge with the world and get back in touch with her inner writer.



## Janelle Bryan

It was with a brand new Liberal Arts DEC that Janelle was finally able to work at her dream job as a novelist. With already a few short stories written over the years, she was ready to tackle the world of writing books for the general public rather than ones reserved for friends, family, and the trash. Being a lover of fantasy and science fiction, Janelle decided to focus on novels in those genres, and over the years managed to gain a following of loyal fans who anticipated each new release. In 2015, she was awarded the Hugo award for her most successful novel yet, *The Pull*, adding to her accomplishment of being on the New York Times Bestsellers List twice. Still being young, Janelle hopes that she will add to her accomplishments and achieve her goal of being the youngest recipient of the Nobel prize for Literature, though she recognizes that she still has a ways to go. After a few years of writing her books, Janelle even found that she was losing inspiration, and wanted to take a break from her life of writing for fans and instead write for a new audience. Now, with her background of being a fiction writer, Janelle is looking for something new to do with a hope that a different workload and goal will spark her love of writing again. She has a passion for Montreal, and hopes to spread that love with new visitors to the city, to let them know the ins-and-outs of her home and lead them to the best experience of the city they can have.





## Mathieu Rheume

Living in Montreal for his whole life has really made him love the city. He started a blog on his photography passion and also his thrift-ing adventures. He came to the realization that many people are very interested in the hobby as well. With his recent success and growth on his blog, he has made it his full time job, which is very amazing. He now documents his everyday life of a thrifter and photographer through the lens and through the words on his blog posts.



## Zac Taillefer

Growing up in Montreal hockey was always, and still is, a big part of Zac's life. Whether he was playing or watching, he spent most of his time at the rinks. He also spent a large part of his time reffing or timekeeping the games, from Novice C to Junior AA. Playing in numerous high leagues across Canada such as the LHJMAAAQ and the CCHL gave him a keen understanding of the sport and what makes the great players great. Understanding the statistical side of the game would also be a huge advantage when writing articles for The Hockey News magazine. Small issues for the average person such as traveling to games or calculating stats are not an issue for Zac since he's been doing it for such a large part of his life. When it comes to the goalies, Zac has a very in-depth knowledge about the pros and who's up next. This gives him the ability to write all sorts of articles, whether about the league's current leader or the kid we'll see rising the cup in 5 years or playing for team Canada in the gold medal game at the Olympics. Growing up bilingual would also be extremely useful when writing the French articles for the hardcore Canadiens fans, and the occasional Canucks fan. Zac pours his passion into his writing, and with a passion this deep the articles would be must reads.



## Sonya Adelman

I am very much interested in joining XploreMTL as my next writing venture. I've always been particularly interested in writing, whether it be creative stories which merited the highest percentage in my high school days, to my early career in journalism, where I always prioritized articles on city exploration, which I am passionate about. One of my proudest achievements is a young adult novel I wrote before turning eighteen entitled *Cherry Red*, which followed the tale of a young woman who was affected with severe amnesia following an accident she evidently does not remember. Consequently, she must follow clues and talk to prior acquaintances to assess exactly what happened. It was a very creative pursuit but I later realized I much preferred to write articles about relevant subjects around me, such as the city I reside in! Montreal has so much to offer and I pride myself in making significant efforts to find as many activities to discover, enjoy and promote. I've visited Speakeasies, Rooftop restaurants, attended comedy shows, museum events and the like. This city is incredibly varied and as an adventurous individual, I would be lying if I said I ever got enough of it. I truly hope this has offered a little bit of insight on who I am and what I do, and I look forward to hearing from the team at XploreMTL!



A photograph of a restaurant table with a marble top. In the foreground, a black metal mesh bowl is filled with a salad of lettuce, tomatoes, chicken, and cheese. To the left of the bowl are two glasses of water. In the background, a glass bottle of water and a small potted plant are visible. The scene is set outdoors with a white picket fence and a car in the distance.

# MANDY'S

• SALADES GOURMANDES •



## MTL's Food Spots

An amazing aspect about Montreal is its diversity to when it comes to food. There is an immense variation of restaurants to try out and all with different prices and cuisines. As a tourist in a new city you might reach for the comfort that Mac Donald provides but I can assure you that after reading this article, it will not be the case. From breakfast to dinner we have you covered on some of the best food spots in MTL.



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One should not attend even the end of the world without a good breakfast.

-Robert A. Heilein

“



## BREAKFAST

### Allo Mon Coco

1684 boulevard de  
Maisonneuve O.

### Universel Déjeuners et Grillades

2055, rue Peel, Montréal

Allo mon coco is a breakfast place that serves all options of breakfast including vegetarian options! There amazing food is made with delicacy and flavor. The bright and colorful interior design definitely matches the rich flavors of the meals.

This amazing breakfast place will definitely satisfy your morning needs. Their prices range at a moderate price of 10-20\$. It's a little of a high end breakfast place. The atmosphere is fancy and beautiful and makes you feel cozy while in luxury.

### Eggspectation Complexe Desjardins

190 saint-catherine st W.

Eggspectation isn't only a breakfast place but serves food through all the meals of the day. Their goal is to create a pleasant atmosphere with good service and amazing food! Their restaurants give plenty of welcoming space in order to dine in peace. Colourful murals, rustic columns, brick walls and much more fills the beauty of the experience.

## LUNCH

It is always great to take time to enjoy a good coffee or a good meal at lunchtime. Whether to take a break from work or simply to take time to relax alone or with friends, these places are there to make you have a good time.

### LA PANTRY

Located near Saint-Henri metro, La Pantry is a small market/cafe/take-out counter, where you will find something to please your appetite at lunchtime. Delicious sandwiches are made on site and even vegan options are in place. On tap kombucha is also available to accompany your meal. Some local craft products are on sale in the small "market" section. During the summer, you can go there to enjoy ice cream vegan or regular!

### LA PETITE ADRESSE

Located on Avenue du Parc, La Petite Adresse is a charming little bistro offering lunch and dinner every day of the week to the delight of the people living in this area. Even if you do not live near by, it is worth the detour to enjoy a creative Mediterranean and French inspired menu full of flavours. Omelettes, pastries, toast and other small delights await you.

## Vegan/Vegetarian OPTIONS

### LOV

Lov is a vegan restaurant that houses a lot of options for those who struggle to eat out. Its ambiance creates an inviting atmosphere for the client and the aesthetic of the place is overall breath taking. This killer combo definitely has this place winning.

### Mandy's

Is an amazing salad spot with a variation of gourmet salads? Although their prices are a little bit up there, the portion is well worth it.

## DINNER

### Les Enfants Terribles

Is an amazing dinner spot with an amazing view on Montreal. This charming restaurants is the perfect place for a romantic date or even a night out with the girls! Les enfants terribles has amazing food while looking at an amazing view.

### CINKO

1641 Saint-Denis

It's all in the name at this Latin Quarter restaurant, as CINKO only serves meals for the incredibly affordable price of \$5. And don't think you just get a couple of fries and a morsel of meat on a plate, as the portions at CINKO are pretty generous and the various dishes are quite creative.



## COFFEE SHOPS

### Barley's

Is the first cereal in Montreal and is wildly famous. This simple food is definitely at the center of this restaurant's menu. Barley's is an amazing spot to have a simple meal and catch up with a friend.

### Tommy

Whether you're looking for a quick snack or a place to study, Tommy is perfect for that. The ambiance is serene and beautiful. The simplicity of the place is nice and calming along with its savory food.



## SWEET SPOTS

### Juliet et chocolate

1626 Saint Catherine St W

Juliette et Chocolate is an amazing sweet spot that has become iconic in the city of Montreal. A variety of food categories is served like brunch, fruity drinks, desserts, and loads of plates based off of chocolate. Overall, this iconic spot will feed your sweet tooth.

### CACAO 70

2087 Saint Catherine St

Cacao 70 is an amazing food spot for people with a sweet tooth. The star ingredient of this place is definitely chocolate. From chocolate drinks, to desserts, it is most certainly the place for a sweet tooth craving to be fulfilled.

### CONCLUSION

In other words, Montreal has a lot to offer. Its versatile food spots serve you deliciousness through breakfast, lunch, dinner, and even desserts. Bringing you Montreal's trendiest food spots in order to explore more is our goal!



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# INTERVIEW

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With our modern world we have many people who use social media to share their love for food. Many food spots are shared by these big social media influencers in order to share their favorite spots to get their poke bowls. Many food places get famous because of the power of social media. The following interview was a young man who works in the food industry in Montreal and knows the ins and outs of it.

What is your favorite type of food to eat?

Club sandwich with chips which would involve being substitute for fries, they are de-fried and very salty.

Which are your favorite places to eat at?

Lester's smoke meat deli, Hurley's pub and beaver tales.

Do you find that there are enough vegan options out in the Montreal restaurant business?

There are a fair amount of vegan restaurants but a majority are overpriced or food is not quiet the best but that is only from personal experience. I feel like veganism comes from a good place but should be more accessible when it comes to pricing.



### Do restaurants advise about reverse contamination?

For example: if a hamburger patty is being grilled on the grill, restaurants should advise their customers that there is reverse contamination. From personal experiences working in the restaurant business restaurants should always advise their customers prior to ordering.

In conclusion, we just saw how food defiantly has an impact in someone day to day activities and is a small luxury to treat yourself with on a daily basis. Obviously, there is more then just the luxury aspect to it all, more so just the laws that should be respected.

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Written by Maria Vidoza

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“ART

SHOULD COMFORT THE DISTURBED  
AND DISTURB THE COMFORTABLE”

———— Banksy ————



# Mural Festival

June 7<sup>th</sup> - June 17<sup>th</sup>  
2019



## Montreal Mural Festival

### Zac Taillefer, Xplore MTL

For the seventh time the walls of the Plateau in downtown Montreal will be transformed into an urban artists playground. People from all over the world will gather to celebrate the international urban art movement. The Montreal Mural Festival is a free eleven day event with so much going on. The urban art movement brings together street artist and graffiti artists. A phenomenon that started in Philadelphia in the late 60's graffiti was looked down on as vandalism. As the years went on people moved away from lettering and tagging and moved more towards murals and wall paintings, using city walls as their canvas. People began to appreciate this form of art and see the beauty in it. This gave festivals such as Montreal's Mural Festival the chance to grow. Now in its seventh year Montreal's Mural Festival hosts plenty of different events such as live music, artist talk, the chance to watch the artist's work and so much more. This year's artist lineup includes names from all over the world. You can see Ben Johnson, Germ Dee, Gleo, Hyuro and many more at work. The full lineup can be found on Mural Festivals website along with an interactive map of the city and where the paintings are taking place. //200words// The festival also promotes artist talks where you can learn a bit about the artists. They'll bring you through their creative process, give you a look into their offices or home studios and then most of the time finish with a live q&a so any questions you may have for them don't go unanswered. Street art is the biggest part of the festival but there are plenty of other things to do over this ten-day period. The festival also hosts live music shows. You can see some up and coming local artist as well as the well-known ones. Last year's headliner was Playboi Carti known for his songs mangolia and woke up like this. This festival is truly a must see if you are in Montreal during the summer and the greatest thing about it is that it is completely free. Every event through the ten-day period is charge free.

# 15 minutes With Alex Wheeler

Zac Taillefer, Xplore MTL



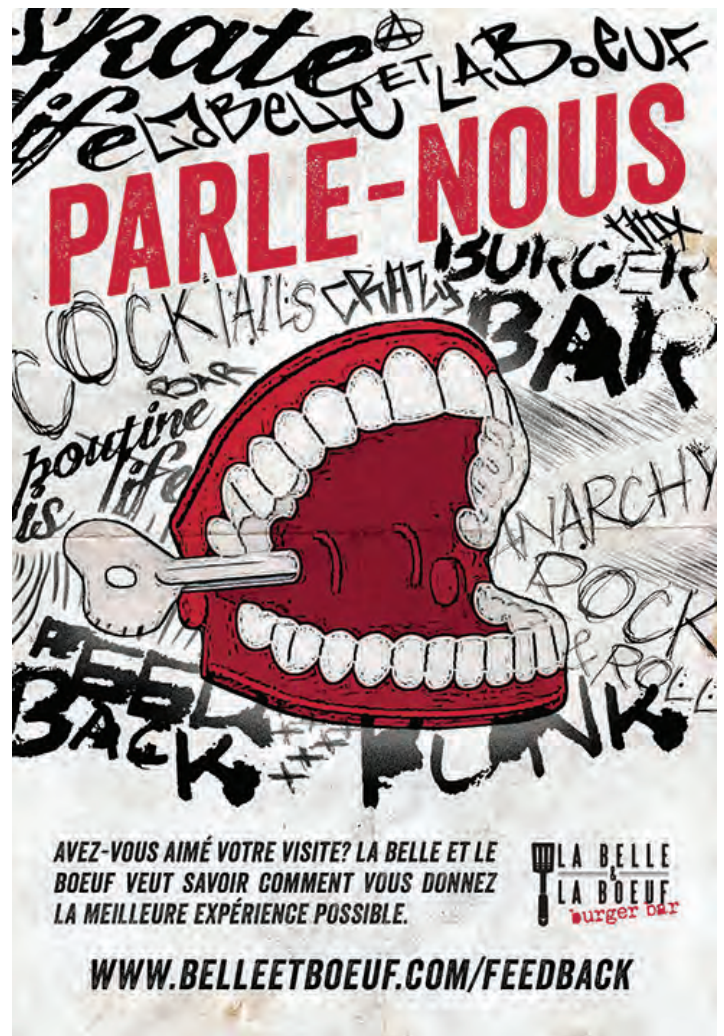
In this article we caught up with Alex Wheeler, a young graphic designer from Montreal, Quebec who, on the side, works on street art, lettering and graffiti. We had the chance to sit down and talk to him about street art, the urban art movement and his hopes for his work in that domain.

Can you tell us a little about yourself?

I am a 23 year old graphic designer from Rigaud, Quebec. I dabbled with graphic design in high school and then went into the Graphic design program at John Abbott College. When i started the program it was called (PDHT). Graphic design has always been a passion for me but I've always been very into street art and graffiti. I am currently working for (COMNAY NAME). I do a lot of posters and ads for various companies. If ever you are in the downtown Montreal area you might spot a billboard poster i did for La Belle et La Boeuf. Another good place to spot my work is Beta Bloque where i design most of their pamphlets, posters and promotional ads.

How did you get into graffiti/street art?

I was never a very good at what you would call conventional drawing. I couldn't draw very realistic images. But i loved to draw. So i started doodling. Soon my doodles all followed a certain style that is now very apparent in my work that you see today. Very grungy almost alien creatures make up a lot of my pieces. For the graffiti aspect i was always interested in graffiti. I got into on the wrong foot however. When i was younger i decided to go out and tag a building near my house. I got caught by a cop just on a patrol. This run in turned me off to the actual spray painting graffiti on walls so i turned to pen and paper. After that whenever i went downtown i would take photos of the pieces or tags that i say and when i got home i would try to recreate them in my sketchbook. Started selling my work and thats when i started to get noticed. I was paid to paint on a few smaller walls around my near my hometown but nothing major yet.





What accomplishments do you wish to achieve?

A huge one would be to be invited to something like the Montreal Mural Festival or Pow! Wow! Street Festival. To have my work showcased at an event like that, in a city like this? Montreal has a huge emphasis on the arts and street art keeps growing in popularity and in recognition. On a smaller scale i would love to be commissioned to paint a mural downtown Montreal, anywhere. I think it would be awesome to be walking downtown one day with my kids and say "Hey guys you see that? I painted that one". Just to add to the canvas that is the city of Montreal would be a dream come true.

Who are some of your biggest influences?

Growing up i read a lot of street art magazines, SAM (street and more) and street art news to name a few. When trying to improve my photography someone once told me the most important thing to buy is a magazine subscription and i believe this to be true with graffiti as well. Just going through those magazines influenced my own work so much. In terms of artists Banksy was a huge influence. I loved how he took known pieces or political issues and turned them into something that really made you think. The majority of his pieces are up to personal interpretation. My favourite piece by him is "Keep your coins, I want change". I love how he uses the double meaning of change.

What would you say is the most important thing for a budding artist?

Draw. Every. Day. Honestly i can't state this enough. Set aside 15 mins every day and just draw what you feel. Don't try to plan it out just practice. For graffiti take one word and draw it in a bunch of different styles. We re so scared to fail or to make something that we don't like that we block. This stops us from getting anywhere in our domains. Also never throw anything away. There have been numerous times where i just flipped through an old sketchbook and found inspiration. I would remake old pieces of mine and some of them have been my most sold pieces. Just trust your abilities and let yourself be creative. At the end of the day you are creating things that you should like.





# Exciting Music Week Back for Another Year

Janelle Bryan, Xplore MTL

This April, prepare yourself for a week of celebrating Black art and music as Kalmunity hosts Montreal's second annual festival of its kind. From April 28 to May 5, the best in Hip Hop, Jazz, Reggae, House, Afrobeat, Funk, Soul Dancehall, Spoken Word, and much more will be available at locations like Petit Campus, Resonance Café, Pop Up Lab, and many more.

Kalmunity is known to be Canada's largest and longest running black arts and improv collective with over 60 creatives being members since its founding in 2003 by Jahsun. He has described the creation of Kalmunity as "an opportunity to create a space where we could come back to the essence of why we play music — to express the inexplicable, to express the soul. The best way to do that is to be as honest as possible, and the best way to do that is through the improvisation element." The Montreal Gazette named Kalmunity to be 1 of 5 best places to take out of towners as they produce 2 weekly events of improvised music; Jazz Sunday evenings at Café Resonance and Hip Hop Tuesday nights at Petit Campus. Kalmunity was created to be "an outlet for black and cultural expression", and has had a large part in the protection and development of Montreal black music in addition to being a part of workshops for young artists and outreach programs.

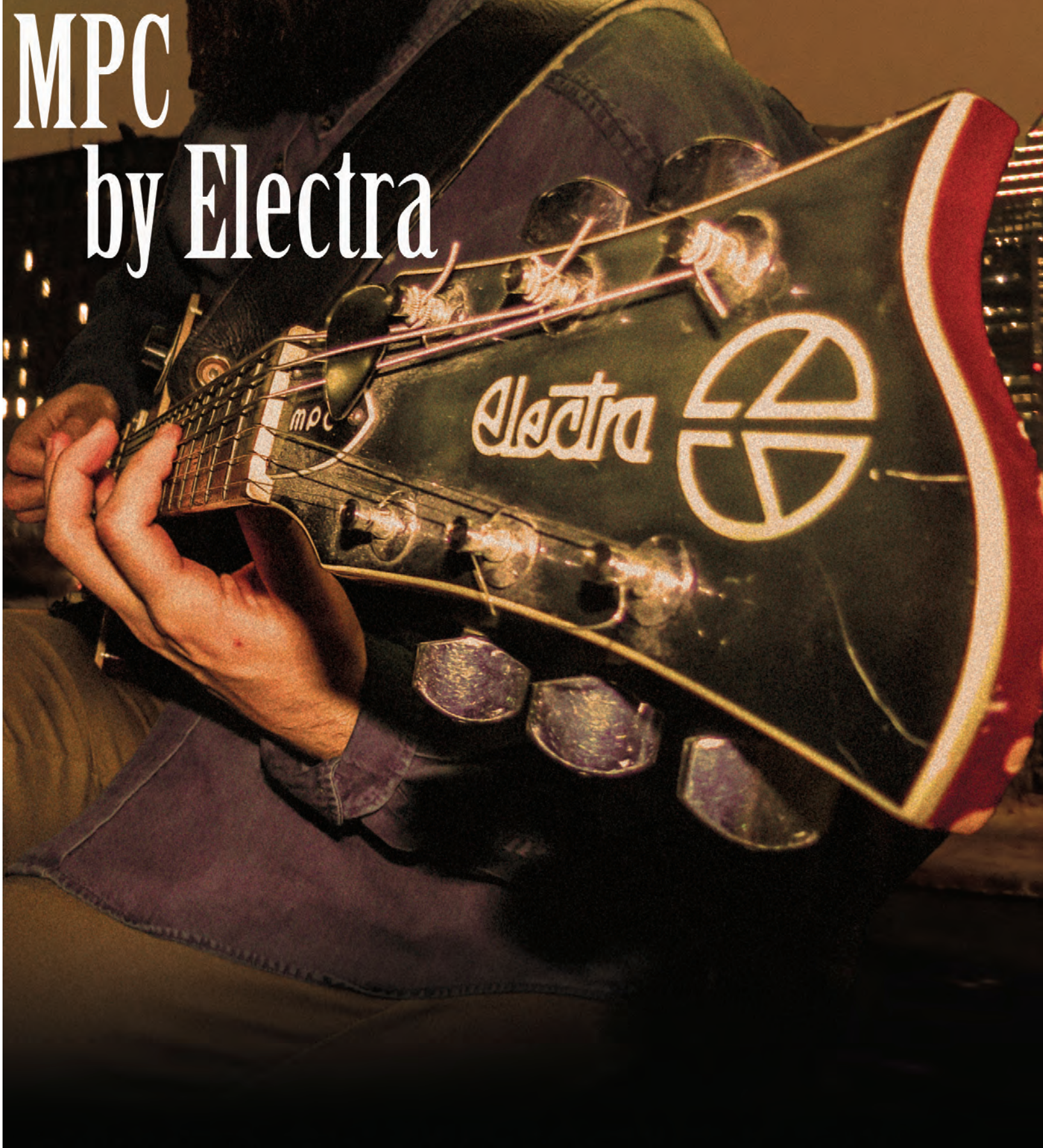


Having been already featured at events like The Montreal Jazz Fest, House of Paint, Nuits D'Afrique, and many of the like, Kalmunity is putting together the second edition of a festival to continue their work of offering a space for black artists, and opportunities for locals and visitors to see part of Montreal culture. In addition to music, the Kalmunity Music Week will also highlight the KVC Urban Market, the Black Speculative Art Movement: Afrofuturism Conference, Youth and Community outreach, panels, discussions, workshops, and much, much more. With the likes of Dwayne Morgan, Chanda and the Passengers, DJ Lady Oracle, and Jason 'Blackbird' Selman, you can either choose to go for one day for as little as \$10, or go for the whole week for only \$150.

Visit [www.kalmunity.com](http://www.kalmunity.com) for more information about the collective and future events, and buy your tickets through eventbrite (a link is offered on Kalmunity's website).



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# Checking out Montreal's Music Scene: O Cara

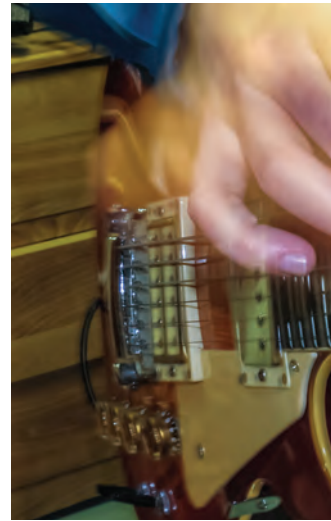
Janelle Bryan, Xplore MTL

Montreal is known to be a city of artistic expression, from film to art to even a vibrant independent music scene that has been around since the 1990s. This April's edition of "Band of the Month" is a part of the latter scene, Montreal-bred O Cara. You might have seen them at local shows like the annual fundraiser, Coldest Night of the Year, or playing a gig at the likes of St-Laurent's Barfly. They released their first EP, CLARITIES or whatever, just last year in August on Bandcamp. This month, our reporter was able to sit down with one of the guitarists of O Cara, Timothy Bryan, and give a glance of what O Cara is about, and what it is like to be a part of a thriving music scene in Montreal.

X: Thank you for taking the time to do this Timothy, I'm sure our readers will be very interested to hear about your band and your perspective on being an independent band in Montreal. Why don't we start with you telling me a bit about O Cara: your musical style, your band members, a brief history of who you are?

TB: "Me and some friends started O Cara a few years ago, in 2017 I think. At the time it was myself on guitar, Ryan on guitar, Ben on keys, Pat on bass, and Josiah on drums. Everyone but Josiah took turns on vocals. Ben ended up playing with us for about 6 months, but ended up leaving due to he didn't really want to play in a band. Pat was with us for about a year, but left a little while after he moved to Ottawa. He was replaced by Julien, and that has been the line-up for the last year and a bit.

Stylistically, we've always been all over the place. We originally started with heavy influences of Canadian folk music, jazz, spoken word, and math rock. The first year or so we actually played almost only acoustic music. With the evolution of time and members, we're a bit heavier now and have a stronger influence of indie, alternative, and post-hardcore. A few of our biggest influences are MewithoutYou, Radiohead, and Manchester Orchestra."



X: What are your goals for the band, to just have fun for now or produce music to make money?

TB: "Best case scenario would be to have a career from playing music, but with the current state of the music scene and especially with the kind of music we play (ie. not particularly marketable) that's not a feasible option unless we a) went full-time with touring/writing/recording year-round and b) got lucky. None of us are all that interested in giving up everything else going on in our lives to pursue this with that level of commitment, so for now we're just enjoying writing with each other, playing shows, and releasing music when we can. We want it to be a part of our lives, but there's no expectation that it will be financially viable for us."

X: How was it to make an EP, interested in a full CD or happy for now?

TB: "The EP was really fun to make, and it was a great learning experience for all of us. We definitely want to keep making and releasing music, and we'll hopefully have more music out before the end of the year. We're not sure what kind of release it will be, but a full album definitely isn't out of the question."

X: What is it like to be a part of the music scene in Montreal; what are your favorite things about it and what is frustrating?

TB: "It's pretty great to be honest, compared to a lot of other cities. We have such a vibrant city and there's always so much going on, and the scene is diverse enough to support so many artists in tons of different styles. My only frustration with the scene is that myself and Julien, the two members of the band that regularly go to shows and participate in the scene, are actually mainly involved in hardcore and metal, so it has been challenging finding shows and promoters in the indie crowd. The scene defi-



nately exists, but we're not that well-connected right now. We do have a few good contacts that have gotten us shows, and we're hoping that as we remain active and play more and release music we'll become more integrated and people will know who we are."

X: As an ending note, what are your favorite local bands and festivals that you suggest for our readers?

TB: "Osheaga is a plague. Some local bands I like are Kennedy, Offset, Patent, Chthe'ilist, Gulfer, Fer Sher, Bas Relief, Lil' Andy, and Bule."

So there you have it readers, another independent band coming out of Montreal's music scene, here to give you fresh music hopefully this year. It is not easy to try to make it in such a large city full of artistic potential, but you may want to keep an eye out for this one, and the other bands Timothy had mentioned. We can easily get swept-up in the popular music from the United States, but I'm here to remind you that we have plenty of amazing artists in our own backyard. Check this section out next month to hear about another Montreal band, to get more music suggestions, and maybe hear more about festivals beyond "Osheaga is a plague". Remember to check out O Cara on Facebook, Instagram, and Bandcamp for their EP and upcoming events they will be playing at, and always support your local artists of every kind.



**KALMUNITY**  
Music Week

APRIL 20-  
MAY 4  
20  
19  
VISIT  
[KALMUNITY.COM](http://KALMUNITY.COM)

A vertical graphic on the right side of the page. At the top, the word "KALMUNITY" is written in large, red, vertical letters. To its right is a black microphone with a red band and the words "Music Week" written in red on its handle. Below this, the dates "APRIL 20- MAY 4 20 19" are displayed in a bold, brown font. At the bottom, a dark brown oval contains the text "VISIT KALMUNITY.COM" in white. The background of the graphic is black with red curtains at the top and a light brown floor at the bottom.



# The Best of Thrifting at Tricky Inc.

Mathieu Rheume, Xplore MTL

Are you into the thrifting hobby and want to buy those brands you love for lower prices? Tricky Inc. is a thrift shop located in Pointe-Claire with some of the best clothes you can find. I have gone to Tricky Inc. a few times with some friends and every time I have gone, I have had such an amazing experience. The owner of the shop is very cool and he can make you crack up. The prices of the clothes in the shop are unbeatable for what you get. He has many brands to take a look at included some higher end designer brands.

After having this conversation with the owner of Tricky Inc. I realized how nice of a guy he is, no wonder he gets so much business. I ended up purchasing some Air Jordan Retro 13's for 185 dollars which is a great price for them, and I also picked up a Nike windbreaker and a Blue Jays sweater.





Here's an interview I had with the man himself.

**Me:** So how did this whole thrift shop business come about?

**Owner:** I started out as a recycling business in the beginning, where I would take in used clothing to recycle, but then as it quickly grew, I came up with the idea to start a shop. I went on and started thrifting clothes for really cheap at second-hand places and brought them back to my shop and sold them at a reasonable price that would sell and make me profit.

**Me:** That's so interesting, I love it! So do you just sell in shop or have other ways?

**Owner:** My main way of selling is in the shop but I do online sales through instagram and facebook.

**Me:** Do you plan on expanding the business by having other storefronts elsewhere?

**Owner:** Yes I do actually, I actually have a place located in Ontario, where I have my assistant working. He's the one who I have thrift all the clothes.

**Me:** I didn't know you had another shop, i'll have to check it out the next time I take a trip down to Ontario. Well it was nice chatting with you, I am going to keep on looking around, and I'll see what I'll be purchasing.



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Find our products in any clothing retail store around Montreal or at [www.inpeace.ca](http://www.inpeace.ca)

# Find the Most at **Eva B.**

## Mathieu Rheume, Xplore MTL

In the summer I went out with my girlfriend to go thrifting when we found the shop Eva B. The store isn't the prettiest as it is boarded up and covered by graffiti and stickers, looking more like an abandoned building than a vintage store. Yet beyond this front lies one of the most popular vintage haunts in Montreal. Eva-B is a go-to thrift store that attracts everyone, from local hipsters to visiting celebrities alike.

Eva-B has two levels, on the first is a consignment vintage store and a coffee shop, and on the second is a used goods floor, offering an alternative, vibrant underground community with the goal of preserving an era of Montreal history. The store sells all kinds of stuff such as second-hand clothing, new clothing, tailored clothes, books, etc.



Though Eva-B may have a large selection of both vintage and cheap, modern clothing, the real charm is in the aesthetic and atmosphere it provides for shoppers. There is a small café located by the entrance, where the store sells delicious sandwiches, snacks, and drinks for relatively cheap prices. The customers may recline on comfortable couches and enjoy a meal, or even sit outside in the courtyard.

All of the huge selections, cheap prices, and warm atmosphere, has contributed to Eva-B's continued success. Compared with many other thrift shops in Montreal, Eva-B differs in its position as a half-way between high-end vintage and Value Village-style stores.

Eva-B strives to fulfill a look that attracts young creative people. The music, playing overhead as customers browse, is hand-picked by the employees of the store.

The boarded-up door, although rather weird-looking, it manages to perfectly encapsulate Eva-B's grunge style. The entrance signs are tucked away, as though to preserve the clandestine nature of the store.

# Thrifting Saves

The  
&  
Your



Everywhere around Montreal





## Speakeasies Are Back, Baby!

### Sonya Adelman, Xplore MTL

It's no secret that Montreal is blessed with an iconic nightlife, and that everyone who gets to experience it is bound to cherish the memories they make here. Most people know of the bars and clubs already, on Saint-Laurent Boulevard and in the Gay Village—if you haven't checked them out already, plan a night!—, but some may prefer an even more exclusive and niche experience, and for those who relate, we have got good news! Ladies, Gents, and whomever, welcome to the world of “underground” bars; the kind of night out you have to actively search for.

Secret bars, or speakeasies, date from the prohibition period in the United States. There was a time, believe it or not, when alcohol consumption was illegal, even for adults! Desperate times called for desperate measures and bars hidden behind shops, laundromats, and anything commercial and legal began popping up all over North America. Thankfully, today, we can drink, but the concept is still cool and exciting, and there is something special about walking around and anticipating an ambiance with no clue of what to expect.

Montreal sure got the hint, and now our city crawls with fascinating holes in the wall, behind the alley, through the tunnel, to the right, here you are, have a drink! We've checked out a few spots, such as Henden, a speakeasy located behind the scrumptious “Bird Bar” on Notre-Dame street downtown, and the Atwater Cocktail Club, located somewhere behind Foiegwa, another delightful eatery. In the old port you can find Velvet, a hotel that happens to conceal a pretty fantastic hub to enjoy house music, and finally, our favourite so far, a new speakeasy club called Sous-Bois, that is just as mystical as the name makes it sound. Located beneath a restaurant of the same name, a stroll down the staircase leads you to their “enchanted forest”, a beautifully decorated dance club with an inviting and colourful atmosphere. We made it our mission to pay them a visit and ask the owner, Alexandre Brosseau, a few questions of our own, in case our pitch doesn't already have you strapping on your heels, zipping up your dresses and buttoning your suits.



Sous Bois menu. Photo by: Sonya Adelman

Hi, nice to meet you Alex, can we call you Alex?

**A.B:** “\*laughs\* Sure.”

Great! So, Alex, what was your inspiration for the decor of this restaurant?

**A.B:** “The concept of Sous Bois was to create an underground forest where people could live out the experience of a “Souper Champêtre”, a classy traditional dinner from the Quebec region, in the heart of Montreal's city. It's sort of a play on Quebec's roots,





Staircase to Basement. Photo by: Sonya Adelman

You said it got people talking about you. That was sort of one of our questions. Would you say the concept of a "secret bar" makes up for the fact that it's hidden? How do you advertise?

**A.B:** "Well I mean we do have a restaurant, and our restaurant is visible on the street. We also have a website and an instagram, and we advertise about as much as any other restaurant or bar would. You have to remember that alcohol is thankfully legal these days, and therefore we don't actually need to hide the existence of our bar from the internet. It's only invisible to those who haven't heard of it or have only heard of the restaurant, which makes it an even more exciting discovery for them. That's definitely fun, and we've often had tourists come in and express their awe at the speakeasy, because they were completely clueless when their friends dragged them in. That's probably one of the most enjoyable things to witness as the owner. But in the end the speakeasy is more of a creative choice, to have something attractive and different."

back when we had a "runner of the woods" and people hosted large feasts. We've also incorporated Native-American elements, because they are also a very important part of Quebec's history."

Could you describe the experience for someone who may have never been here?

**A.B:** "Well, we're located near Peel street, which is a very busy area in downtown Montreal, and it is always buzzing with people. Upon entry, the restaurant itself holds a cozy and warm ambience, but if you're more interested in mystery and excitement, you can step through the door of our "cabin in the woods", where the first thing you will see is a window with a view on the lake, closely followed by the staircase leading to the underground. As you make your way down, it becomes extensively clear that you are now in a cabin. Once you reach the lower level, at the end of the artwork-covered hallway awaits the common room, which is a lounging spot equipped with sofas and a coffee table. Next to the lounge is a bookshelf, except it's no ordinary shelf, as behind it you will discover a whole other room, with it's own set of bartenders and countless drinks to choose from."

Not gonna lie, that's pretty impressive, but we have to ask, why all this and not just a bar?

**A.B:** "Chuckles\* Why not? It's unusual, its mysterious and it definitely gets people talking about us. It's also great for photos and it's the perfect Montreal novelty to show your tourist friends."



Sous Bois Front Photo by: Sonya Adelman



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