Mission

Founded in 1992, Les Impatients’ mission is to help people with mental illness through artistic expression.

*Les Impatients*: The name signifies that people who attend workshops are not considered patients, but creators looking forward to healing, developing their art and finding their place in society.
A unique initiative

The organization has developed an innovative series of workshops for which the only prerequisite is an interest in self-expression through art. During these sessions, participants are free to explore their creativity, assisted by an art therapist or a professional artist. Various types of workshops are available. Participants’ artwork is showcased through a variety of activities: exhibitions, concerts, presentations, publications. Les Impatients encourages exchanges with the community through the sharing of its participants’ creations.
Historic

In 1992, the Fondation des maladies mentales supported the setting up of the Fondation pour l’art thérapeutique et l’art brut du Québec, which will later be renamed Les Impatients. The organization was founded by Lorraine B. Palardy, Lina Dessureault, Dr. Yves Lamontagne and Lyette Racicot. The first workshop opened in Pointe-aux-Trembles.

The birth of the organization followed the success of a pilot project in art therapy held at the Hôpital Louis-H. Lafontaine (now known as the Institut en santé mentale de Montréal), since 1989. The experience is an initiative of the Fondation des maladies mentales, along with the Association des galeries d’art contemporain de Montréal, presided by Lorraine B. Palardy.

In 1999, the Fondation pour l’art thérapeutique et l’art brut du Québec chose to be known from then on by the name Les Impatients. This name confirms that the people who attend the workshops are not thought of as patients, but as creators impatient to heal, to develop their art and to find, once more, their place in society.

After a modest beginning in a Pointe-aux-Trembles basement, with no subsidies and tons of projects, the organization proved its significance. In 1999, Les Impatients offered workshops in the monastère du Bon-Pasteur building in downtown Montreal. They also opened the administrative center there, as well as a gallery dedicated to the distribution of the artwork produced in their workshops.

In 2009, an association was created with the Douglas Mental Health University Institute. The Institute appealed to Les Impatients’ knowledge to offer workshops for its clientele. It’s the first partnership between Les Impatients and a health organization, but not the last.

In 2011, another first, Les Impatients expand out of Montreal. The opening of a workshop in Drummondville paves the way to openings of multiple workshops all over Québec.
Les Impatients workshops – 21 locations in 13 cities

Les Impatients offers free creative workshops at several locations and is associated with various health and art institutions.

850 participants per week 16 affiliated hospitals

1992 Institut universitaire en santé mentale de Montréal, supported by CIUSSS de l’Est-de-l’Île-de-Montréal - pilot project from 1989 to 1992
1992 Pointe-aux-Trembles, 1st workshop opened after the organization’s foundation
1999 Centre-ville de Montréal
2009 Les Trois Sapins, downtown Montreal
2009 Centre Wellington, Verdun, supported by Institut universitaire en santé mentale Douglas
2011 Maison des arts Desjardins, supported by CIUSSS de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec
2014 Espace Création Dominique Payette, St-Lambert, supported by CISSS de la Montérégie-Est and Fondation Hôpital Pierre-Boucher
2015 Centre hospitalier régional de Lanaudière, St-Charles-Borromée and Musée d’art de Joliette, supported by Fondation pour la Santé du Nord de Lanaudière and CISSS de Lanaudière
2016 Centre communautaire Sacré-Cœur, supported by CISSS de la Montérégie-Est and by Fondation Hôtel-Dieu de Sorel
2017 Presbytère Cathédrale-Saint-Jean-L’Évangéliste, St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, supported by CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre
2017 Musée d’art contemporain des Laurentides, St-Jérôme, supported by Fondation de l’Hôpital régional de Saint-Jérôme, in partnership with CISSS des Laurentides
2018 Centre d’art Diane-Dufresne, Repentigny, supported by CISSS de Lanaudière, Fondation santé sud de Lanaudière and Centre d’art Diane-Dufresne
2018 Centre des arts de Shawinigan, supported by CIUSSS de la Mauricie-et-du-Centre-du-Québec, Fondation de la SSS de l’Énergie and Culture Shawinigan
2019 Centre jeunesse de la Montérégie – Campus de Chambly, in partnership with CISSS de la Montérégie-Est and Fondation du Centre Jeunesse de la Montérégie
2019 Espace Création Dominique Payette, supported by Hôpital Charles-Le Moyne and CISSS de la Montérégie-Centre
2019 Centre communautaire Metcalfe, supported by Fondation pour la Santé du Nord des Lanaudière, in partnership with CISSS de Lanaudière
2020 CHUM, supported by Fondation du CHUM and Fondation Famille Godin
2020 La Plaule, supported by ministère de l’Éducation
2021 La Factrie, Valleyfield, supported by CISSS de la Montérégie-Est
2021 Côte-des-Neiges, supported by CIUSSS West-Central-Montreal – Jewish General Hospital, McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), Montréal West Island IUHSSC – St. Mary’s Hospital Center (SMHC), and by by College Marianopolis et Marianopolis Student Union
2021 Maisonneuve, supported by CIUSSS de l’Est-ce-l’Île-de-Montréal and Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont
An organization that makes a difference

In 2020, they are the recipient of the Elle Amir Award for Innovation in Mental Health presented by Ami-Québec. In 2017, Lorraine Palardy received an award for Les Impatients: Agent of change for mental health in Quebec. In 2013, Les Impatients received a President’s Commendation from the Canadian Psychiatric Association. Lorraine Palardy, president and founder of Les Impatients, was named Citizen of the Year by Reader’s Digest in 2009 and Personality of the Week by La Presse in 2008. She also received the National Order of Quebec in 2007. In 2005, Les Impatients received the Initiatives of Excellence award from the Schizophrenia Society of Canada. In 1994, the organization received an honorary mention for the quality of its work from the Association des médecins psychiatres du Québec.
A reference for the health community

In 2014, a study conducted under the direction of Dr. Catherine Briand from the University of Montreal, revealed that 87% of Les Impatients’ clientele observed improvements to their health. In addition, the number of hospitalizations among this group decreased by 67%.

Confident in Les Impatients’ model, many mental health professionals refer patients to the organization to help them continue their rehabilitation.

Les Impatients’ art makes its mark

The organization has evolved in partnership with the artistic community. Over the years, artists have taken part in a variety of projects initiated by the organization, suggesting their own activities to participants and acting as spokespeople for Les Impatients. Involved in the organization as activity facilitators, artists also engage with participants in ad hoc artistic initiatives. The result is a delightful juxtaposition and intertwining of artistic expression by the artists and Les Impatients participants, in the form of presentations, concerts and joint exhibitions.
The Collection Les Impatients

Since its foundation in 1992, part of Les Impatients’ mission is to preserve the artwork produced by their workshop participants. The organization leads the way in Canada in its field, being one of the most important collections of its type in North America. The foundation’s collection is made up of nearly 15,000 pieces, conceived by 150 *Impatients*, as well as donations and acquisitions from nonstandard art collectors.

The Collection Les Impatients allows the organization to showcase the work of its participants to the public. Les Impatients holds exhibits for its works, does travelling exhibitions and takes part in various nonstandard and contemporary art projects.

Works of art from The Collection Les Impatients have been acquired by the Collecton de l’art brut in Lausanne.
Works in dialogue

Cultural institutions have also integrated Les Impatients’ works into their original exhibits. They aim to showcase the distinct character of art produced by people with mental illness and create a dialogue between said art and that of professional contemporary artists.

- **Outsider Art Fair New York** (2020)
- Centre des sciences de Montréal
  *Health from head to toe* (2019)
- Collection de l’Art Brut, Lausanne
  *Vehicles* (2014)
- Espace Création Loto-Québec
  *La Collection selon… Les Impatients* (2012)
- Galerie Les Impatients
  *Regards sur l’art cru* (2008)


- National Gallery of Canada
**Parle-moi d'amour**

Presented since 1999, the exhibition-auction *Parle-moi d'amour* has become a major flagship event of the Montreal art community and the main fundraiser for the organisation Les Impatients. It is a silent auction where are presented and sold artworks from Les Impatients, professional artists and arts collectors. A few works are selected to be part of a final live auction.

Throughout the years, the *Parle-moi d'amour* events have multiplied in many of Les Impatients’ workshops.

The 22th edition of *Parle-moi d'amour Montréal* was held online for the first time.
Les Éditions Les Impatients

Founded in 2000, Les éditions Les Impatients promotes works created in Les Impatients workshops. *Les Impatients de Montréal : artistes excentriques* is the first book published by Les éditions Les Impatients. In 2004, a literary component was added to the publication of *Mille mots d’amour*, which contains love letters from workshop participants, writers, artists and the public. In 2010, the first Les Impatients comic book was published.

*Mille mots de voyage* (2019)

*Mille mots de voyage* (2019)

*Ophélia* (2017)

*Mille mots d’amour box set* (2005-2018)
The organization’s survival

The organization’s survival depends upon donations received from businesses and people who believe in its initiative. Les Impatients is largely funded by benefit activities and institutional partnerships.
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