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Montreal artist G. Scott McLeod's ongoing project, *Lachine Canal: Past and Present* makes a civic virtue of blurring artistic lines. The project, which has been McLeod's most entrenched creative theme, blends the approach of the aesthete with that of the historian. Using the various mediums of drawing, painting and photography, McLeod sets out to explore the shifting quasi-urban landscapes of the Lachine Canal as both inspiration to create and imperative to preserve. In addition to the artist's own renderings, the collected work includes historical storyboards of the buildings, businesses, bridges, boats and locks of the once thriving canal. The project is sponsored by Peter McAuslan and is presently exhibited in the Annex (visitor centre) of the McAuslan Brewery (5080 Rue St-Ambroise). As additional service to his pet obsession, McLeod offers guided (and one gathers impressionistic) tours of his canal.

It's debatable whether McLeod successfully imbues the buildings and industrial architecture of his favoured waterway with the gravitas and vibrant historicity he intends. But as pictorial documentarian his technique is sound. (-)

MINI**AT GALLERY 303 (372 STE-CATHERINE****O., 514 393 3771), UNTIL JUNE 26****LACHINE CANAL:
PAST AND PRESENT****GUIDED TOURS AND INFO:****[HTTP://WWW.MACLEOD9.COM/](http://www.macleod9.com/)****LACHINE/INDEX.HTM**