



Kit Lynch holds a hologram while modeling eyeglasses with holograms imprinted on them.

Unusual museum choices abound

By Krls Kodrich
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CHICAGO — Loren Billings thinks holograms are the wave of the future.

And after listening to her describe some of the applications of holography to television, X-rays, architecture and other fields, one isn't likely to argue.

"Holography will be as important to mankind as the printing press was when it was first established," she said.

Billings is executive director of Chi-

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Museums needn't be dull

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Chicago's Museum of Holography, one of many unique and unusual museums found in the Chicago area. From the American Police Museum to the Peace Museum, Chicago offers enough indoor intellectual stimulation to keep kids and adults busy for weeks.

"Coming here to the museum is like peeking into the 21st century," Billings said of the Museum of Holography, which is loaded with examples of holograms.

A hologram is a recording of the light waves that reflect from an object illuminated with laser light. The image is produced in full dimension of the original object.

Examples of some of the images on view in the 10,000-square-foot museum include puppies and kittens, a saxophone with notes floating around it, a woman with eyes that follow a viewer and a woman drinking a glass of wine.

A hologram of Dizzy Gillespie shows him putting trumpet to lips with cheeks puffing outward as a viewer moves to the left.

One scene of binoculars on a tree branch allows the viewer to look into the binoculars and see a parrot in the distance.

Billings, who also heads the affiliated School of Holography, said holography is a relatively young field that came into existence during the early 1960s with the development of lasers. Opportunities for discovery and innovations, she said, are virtually unlimited.

The museum is located at 1134 W. Washington Blvd. Admission is \$2.50. Hours are 12:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.

Other unusual museums in Chicago include:

■ **DuSable Museum of African-American History**, 740 E. 56th Place. The first of its kind in the nation, this museum contains more than 800 artworks, 10,000 books on African and African-American

life, and occasional music and dance performances.

■ **American Police Center and Museum**, 1711 S. State St., offers exhibits that teach children about pedestrian safety and the dangers of drug abuse. Others will benefit from demonstrations on how con artists and burglars practice their trades.

■ **Peace Museum**, 430 W. Erie St., an outgrowth of the anti-war movement, features rotating exhibitions of visual, literary and performing arts.

■ **International Museum of Surgical Science**, 1524 N. Lake Shore Drive, includes an extensive collection of 19th and 20th century microscopes, antique X-ray equipment and materials about acupuncture.

■ **Chicago Academy of Sciences**, 2001 N. Clark St., offers wildlife scenes of the Great Lakes region, a walk through a prehistoric coal forest and "please touch" displays for children.

■ **Terra Museum of American Art**, 664 N. Michigan Ave., the newest of the city's major art museums, features 800 works from a private collection. One of the works is by Samuel F.B. Morse, inventor of the Morse code, who painted a canvas called "Gallery of the Louvre," in which he re-creates dozens of paintings.

■ **Chicago Historical Society**, Clark Street at North Avenue, the oldest cultural institution in Chicago, features the earliest known photographs of the city, an audio-visual presentation on the Great Chicago Fire, a listening booth with selections of Chicago jazz and radio broadcasts, Chicago's first locomotive, souvenirs from the two Chicago World Fairs, and other exhibits on Chicago, Illinois and American History.

■ **Museum of Broadcast Communications**, 800 S. Wells St., includes vintage radio and TV sets and a large video and audiotape archive of historic broadcasts available to the public. A museum store features broadcasting merchandise.

■ **Telephony Museum**, 225 W. Randolph, displays the earliest phones and switching systems as well as lightwave and satellite communication.

■ **Express-Ways Children's Museum**, North Pier, 455 E. Illinois St., includes a fully equipped ambulance, a miniature television station and an exhibit on the science of bubbles.

■ **Museum of Contemporary Photography**, 600 S. Michigan Ave., founded by Columbia College in 1984, features photography of the past 30 years.

■ **Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum**, 1852 W. 19th St., the city's newest ethnic collection, features art exhibits, performances and educational programs.

■ **Polish Museum of America**, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., includes art, archives, costumes and a 40,000-volume library. Several biographical collections are available.

■ **Balzakas Museum of Lithuanian Culture**, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, includes dolls, textiles, folk art, antique weapons

and armor, and a hands-on children's museum of immigrant history.

■ **Swedish American Museum**, 5211 N. Clark St., focuses on the contributions of Swedes to American culture. Traveling art exhibits change every two months.

■ **Ukrainian National Museum**, 2453 W. Chicago Ave., features intricate designs of Easter eggs as well as costumes, folk art, ceramics and metal carvings.

■ **Speritus Museum of Judaica**, 618 S. Michigan Ave., has a collection of artifacts of the Holocaust among its collection of 3,000 works spanning 3,500 years of Jewish history.

■ **Oriental Institute**, 1155 East 58th St., features a large statue of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen, a fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls and a 40-ton winged Assyrian bull-man relief among the five galleries of artifacts from the ancient Near East on display at the Oriental Institute.

■ **May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts**, 230 E. Ohio St., is devoted to ethnographic and folk art.

Don't forget the other museums such as the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Field Museum of Natural History, the John G. Shedd Aquarium, the Adler Planetarium and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Schedules and admission fees vary from museum to museum. Visitors should contact the museums for information.

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