



WILLIAMS-SONOMA

The perfect Thanksgiving just takes a little planning...
and our 24-page book of recipes and tips.
Download your copy today.

Chicago Tribune

Sunday, November 13

In the Loop



Rick Kogan

HOLOGRAM MUSEUM IS ONE OF THE CITY'S SECRET TREASURES

Published November 13, 2005

A fascinating place in the West Loop that you can visit is the Museum of Holography, 1134 W. Washington St. If Dave Phillips' photos are a journey into the past, Loren Billings' collection is a trip into the future. She opened the museum in 1976 with her late husband, Bob, a legendary Chicago newspaperman, in what had been the Free Methodist Publishing building.

It has amazed thousands of visitors over the decades, including Michael Jackson, who visited in 1988.

"He just kept going, 'Oooh' and 'Aaah,'" Billings recalls. He bought some pieces, and Billings gave the singer and his entourage free holograms of clown faces.

A hologram, she tells those unfamiliar with the phenomenon, is "a recording on a light-sensitive medium of the light waves that reflect from an object illuminated with laser light, forming in complete and full dimension an image of that original object." You really should visit. It is one of the city's secret treasures and a great place to shop for Christmas gifts.

"Kids love it the most," Billings says. "They are our future, and in holograms they see the future."

Copyright © 2005, [Chicago Tribune](http://www.chicagotribune.com)