

Ai Weiwei's artwork coming to Vancouver for Biennale's 2014-16 exhibit

By Burnaby NewsLeader

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The work of famed Chinese artist and political activist Ai Weiwei is coming to Vancouver, as a part of the 2014-2016 Biennale public art project.

(The Biennale describes itself, [on its website](#), as a "registered non-profit organization with a mandate to exhibit great art in public space and use it as a catalyst to learning and social action".)

The location of Weiwei's work is yet to be announced, but it will be in Vancouver. Other venues for artists' work will be in Richmond, New Westminster, North Vancouver, and Squamish.

Weiwei – once called the "Beijing Andy Warhol" – has become famous for his strong political views against the Chinese Government and its stances on democracy and human rights. He has a documentary film as well, titled *Never Sorry*:

AI WEIWEI: NEVER SORRY - Official Trailer



0:00 / 2:30

Other artists at the Biennale include Canadians Michel Goulet and Vivian Fung, as well as Andy Goldsworthy, Bernar Venet, Dennis Oppenheim, Hugo Franca, John Clement, Jonathan Borofsky, Konstantin Dimopoulos, Magdalena Abakanowicz, Ren Jun, Sophie Ryder, and Yue Minjun.

Minjun's work gathered considerable attention at the Vancouver Biennale from 2009 to 2011 for his sculpture called [A-maze-ing Laughter](#).

"Metro Vancouver municipalities are well underway in their understanding of public art as foundational to community building and the role it plays in creating livable cities, but A-maze-ing Laughter is a prime example of how public art can also be a sound business decision and economic driver," said [Barrie Mowatt, president of the Vancouver Biennale](#), in September 2013.

"Having a public art installation designated as a Great Place in Canada will invariably encourage people from neighbouring communities, municipalities, provinces and countries to come and experience it for themselves."

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