

July 11, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, Canada – The Vancouver Biennale and the City of North Vancouver are pleased to announce the installation of *Walking Figures* by Magdalena Abakanowicz on July 16th and 17th. Once installed, this work will join *The Meeting* by Wang Shugang at Ray Sargent Park and the International Pavilion at the foot of Lonsdale to complete the Vancouver Biennale’s 2014 program in North Vancouver. Join in as we transform Lonsdale into an Open Air Museum, and experience the “Walkennale/Walk Down Lonsdale.”

The nine-foot cast-iron *Walking Figures* creates an imposing tableau along Lonsdale Avenue between 23rd Street and 13th Street. Abakanowicz, widely considered to be the world’s foremost female sculptor, has exhibited works from her signature figurative series in Washington D.C., New York City, San Diego and Chicago. Deeply informed by her personal history as a survivor of war and strife, Abakanowicz’s work explores questions of identity and collective behaviour. The iconic *Walking Figures*, previously installed as part of the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition, finds fresh meaning in its new sites along Lonsdale Avenue.

Continuing down Lonsdale to Ray Sargent Park at 21st Street, the public is greeted by *The Meeting*, Wang Shugang’s constellation of eight crouching figures painted a vivid red. “I am translocating Chinese reality to Canada,” says Wang, a pioneer of China’s politically-charged Cynical Realism movement. First exhibited at the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition, *The Meeting’s* new configuration urges the viewer to consider the power of art to revolutionize public space.

Colourful Biennale banners guide passersby alongside artwork installed by the City of North Vancouver as the walking tour culminates at the foot of Lonsdale at the Vancouver Biennale International Pavilion. World-renowned curator Marcello Dantas has reimagined the historic Pipefitter’s Building into a cultural workshop with a focus on Brazil’s most significant emerging contemporary artists. The 9,000 square foot Pavilion provides a timely look at the country that recently captivated international attention.

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The Pavilion is open from June 24th to October 19th 2014. Public viewing is available through guided tours by trained docents. Call Biennale offices at 604.682.1289 to reserve, or put your name down at the Pavilion. Admission by donation.

Sun – Thu: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Fri – Sat: 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

About the Vancouver Biennale

The Vancouver Biennale is a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space. Each exhibition transforms the urban landscape into an Open Air Museum, facilitating globally-inspired cultural experiences where people live, work, play and transit. The Biennale features internationally renowned and emerging contemporary artists that represent a diversity of cultural perspectives and artistic disciplines, including sculpture, new media, performance works and film. The objective is to use great art in creating a catalyst for learning, community engagement and social action. For more information, visit vancouverbiennale.com

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