**Open Borders/Crossroads Vancouver**

**Sam Carter**

One of the finest aspects of Canadian culture is its **diversity** and **multicultural** demographics. Vancouver is known as “Pacific Gateway to Canada” and is proud of its **cosmopolitan** spirit. When I think of “cosmos”, I think of Pythagoras, who is said to have been the first philosophers to apply the term **“cosmos”** to the Universe, perhaps referring to the starry firmament. Cosmopolitanism can be traced back to Diogenes of Sinope (c. 412 B.C.), the founding father of the Cynic movement in Ancient Greece. Of Diogenes it is said: "Asked where he came from, he answered: 'I am a **citizen of the world** (kosmopolitês)’.

I arrived in Canada during the 1960s and experienced a sequence of events that transformed my life: the unveiling of the national flag of **Canada**—known as the **Maple Leaf,** the opening of Expo 67 in Montreal, and first Moon Landing projected at a public gathering in the plaza of Toronto’s city hall nearby the **Henry Moore’s** sculpture- “The Archer”.

During this era of the 1960s, I met four key individuals that inspired me and my understanding of **globalization**, **borders, cross roads and public art:**

\*Philosopher M**arshal McLuhan** described how the globe has been contracted into a village by electric technology (“**Global Village”)**

\*Anthropologist **Margaret Mead** popularized cultural anthropology in her book “Coming of Age in Samoa”. Margaret commented to me that the most important element of a museum is to “show people doing”.

\*Architect, systems theorist, author, inventor (geodesic dome), futurist **R. Buckminster Fuller** (**Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth**). Fuller was one of the first modern Western thinkers to connect architecture to ecology and the environment. Alejandro Zaerao-Polo writes that he was one of the first to describe “the modern world as an ecosystem to be reconciled with nature”.

\* Architect, collector, teacher, designer, and social historian **Bernard Rudofsky** wrote, **“Streets are for People**”. This profusely illustrated text explains urban decay; the street in cities; and the culture of the street, and how streets for pedestrians are characterized.

I have worked to combine these philosophies into my art and life in Vancouver and I am committed to the ideas of the Biennale theme: **Open Borders/Crossroads Vancouver.**