

Photos: Vancouver Biennale public art project hits beaches in April



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Metro



Sculptor Hugo França sits on a bench he carved out of a reclaimed tree in Squamish.

Contributed by [Ribeiro](#) / [Atelier Hugo França](#)

Soon Vancouverites will be able to enjoy the beach on furniture carved out of salvaged trees by a famous Brazilian sculptor.

Artist Hugo França will use recovered local wood to build sculptures and benches at Spanish Banks Beach, Kits Beach, Sunset Beach and English Bay starting next week as part of the third Vancouver Biennale, an 18-month rotation of large-scale public art across Metro Vancouver.

França is already in Squamish with his chainsaw to convert massive trunks and roots into art pieces, the first time the artist has created sculptures outside Brazil. Passersby will be able to watch him as he sculpts on the beach, where many of his pieces will remain as part of the legacy of the Biennale.



A similar installation to this one in West Hollywood Park by Cosimo Callavaro is coming to Vancouver.

Contributed



França is the first artist to hit Vancouver's streets for this round of the **Biennale** (<https://www.facebook.com/VancouverBiennale>), the art event responsible for bringing a variety of beloved works to the city including the laughing statues that many love to mimic in English Bay.

This time around, organizers are hoping to turn the artwork into "community experiential projects" where residents can either help with the art or, as in França's case, see it transform over several weeks, spokeswoman Miriam Blume said.

Between 25 and 35 pieces of artwork will come to Vancouver, Squamish, North Vancouver and New Westminister for this Biennale, including a piece by superstar artist Ai Weiwei.

Most of the locations have yet to be determined.

"As you can imagine, some of these sculptures are several tonnes," Blume said, so organizers must work with the park board to get approval. They also conduct public consultation to ensure the artwork is welcome in a neighbourhood. In 2008, outrage over an inverted church sculpture in Coal Harbour prompted the city to remove the artwork.

The installations hit the streets one after another instead of all at once to give the community a chance to engage with them all, Blume said.

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