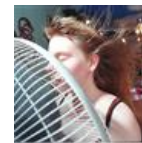


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Human Structures unveiled in False Creek

Acclaimed U.S. artist and sculptor Jonathan Borofsky shows his latest public artwork

BY BRIAN MORTON, VANCOUVER SUN JULY 11, 2014

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Artist Jonathan Borofsky with his sculpture Human Structures near the Olympic Village in Vancouver
Photograph by: Wayne Leidenfrost , PNG

VANCOUVER -- Acclaimed U.S. artist and sculptor Jonathan Borofsky has officially unveiled his latest public artwork — Human Structures — created specifically for Vancouver.

The work, which is comprised of 64 colourful and connected steel figures, will be displayed in Hinge Park by the seawall next to the Olympic Village until 2016.

Each figure is about 1.8 metres tall and there are four levels, so the entire structure stands just over seven metres. It is made of painted steel, connected by bolts and plates, with no welding involved.

Human Structures is among numerous public artworks created by a roster of international and Canadian artists featured in the third Vancouver Biennale, a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space.

Among Borofsky's best-known public works are Molecule Man, a tribute to unity set in the midst of the Spree River, once the boundary between East and West Berlin; People Tower in Beijing; Hammering Man in Seoul; and Walking to the Sky, which was installed at Rockefeller Center in New York before moving to the Nasher Sculpture Center in Texas.

On Thursday, Borofsky sat down with The Vancouver Sun to talk about both his latest work and his impressions of Vancouver.

Q: So, what are your thoughts about the city?

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A: I love Vancouver. This is my second visit. I came in December to look for a location for the sculpture. I have a beautiful setting here on the water. Beautiful.

Q: How did you pick the shapes for Human Structures?

A: This is a figure that's being used as a module that's repeated over and over again. It's a symbol of humanity, connecting to humanity. This is a pixel man, designed as a pixel design. Since all our computers are working with a pixel for photographs we send to each other, this only adds to this concept of humanity connecting to humanity.

Q: Where does the title come from?

A: Well, human structures. The full title will be Human Structures Vancouver, because I made one for Beijing and a second one for San Francisco. The title is a universal title. It means humanity building the world that they live in. Humans use structures to build our world, not only architectural, but psychological and philosophical structures.

Q: How did you pick the colours?

A: Aesthetically. If I have a red up here, I'd like a red down there to balance it. The way you do a colour painting, choosing a nice selection that bounces off one another.

Q: It's all different colours. Do you have a favourite?

A: No favourite colours. It looks like a bright bouquet of flowers for me, so I like all the colours.

Q: How do you like the site?

A: Beautiful. Who could argue? A lot of people have come down and been very positive. I tell every one of them, what a wonderful place it is to live here, what a beautiful location on this park and on this water. Beautiful.

Q: There's 64 figures connecting. Any reason for 64?

A: No, it's just a number I put together at one point as an idea. There's no symbolic meaning for 64. It could have been 66. I still might add a figure before we're through — maybe we'll have 65.

Q: How does it represent Vancouver especially?

A: It doesn't. It represents all of humanity, and Vancouver is part of all of humanity.

bmorton@vancouver.sun.com

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