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## Giant mural coming to Vancouver's Granville Island

Brazilian twins choose concrete plant silos for massive work

AUGUST 9, 2014 BY GERRY BELLETT, VANCOUVER SUN

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STORY

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Lucille Pacey, CEO of Arts Umbrella, paints a silo at Ocean Concrete on Granville Island that will

Photograph by: RICHARD LAM, PNG

VANCOUVER -- The six massive silos that dominate the Ocean Concrete plant on Granville Island have now shed 50 years of grime and muck.

And later this month two world-famous Brazilian street artists known as Osgemeos — who painted the FIFA World Cup Boeing 747 — will get to work transforming the silos into a monster-mural covering more than 23,500 square feet.

"The mural is destined to become one of the most recognizable and iconic works of public art anywhere in the world and, if all goes as envisioned, will become a legacy of the 2014-2016 Biennale exhibition," said Barrie Mow att, president and founder of the Vancouver Biennale.

On Friday Lucille Pacey, CEO of the nearby Arts Umbrella, was hoisted up the side of the 70foot high silos to help paint one of the 15 colours work crews from Wolfgang Commercial Painters have been applying as base coats before the Pandolfo twins — Gustavo and Otavio arrive to complete the mural

Osgemeos — w hich translated means The Twins — have had their w ork exhibited in London's Tate Modern and in Los Angeles at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

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Pacey received the dubious reward of being strapped into a scissor lift and raised high off the ground to apply a coat of pink paint for being the first person to respond to a crow dsourcing campaign by the Vancouver Biennale that is aiming to raise \$20,000 to offset some project

Pacey, who donated \$500, said she did so to encourage the project.

"This is happening on our home base  $\dots$  I spoke to my husband and, as a family, we want to support art and creativity in our city," she said.

Dave Notte, owner of Wolfgang Commercial Painters, said the colours being applied in blocks to the silos had been approved by the twins.

"We sent them off to New York for them to sign off on. They'll be coming in after next week to apply a graffiti-type spray paint for the characters that will make up the mural," he said.

It took a week for crews to power-wash the silos so that paint would adhere to their sides, he

Osgemeos chose the silos themselves after touring Vancouver looking for a suitable site for a gigantic mural, Notte said.

"They wanted to do the largest mural ever and this is what they picked," he said.

Vancouver Biennale marketing director Miriam Blume said the work would be the biggest ever attempted by Osgemeos and the first mural they have done in Canada

"These are two of the most famous muralists who have done work all over the world. This is a serious work of art and they have been recognized as one of the top 25 artists ... (who) are shaking up public art globally," Blume said.

Blume estimated the work would have cost \$1.5 million but the artists are treating it as a nonprofit project, while contributions by Ocean Concrete and the Vancouver Biennale have kept the costs down to \$175,000.

"It will be a great landmark for the city," said Blume.

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