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Massive mural by famous Brazilian coming to Granville Island



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Local painters are prepping the six industrial silos on Granville Island before the famous twin Brazilian artists known as Os Gemeos paint a massive, 360-degree mural.

Courtesy of the Vancouver Biennale/Photo by Roaming the Planet

Six grey, industrial concrete silos on Granville Island are on the verge of becoming Vancouver's most iconic piece of public artwork.

World-famous graffiti artists Os Gemeos, twin brothers from Brazil, will spray paint the 21-metre tall waterfront silos in a 360-degree mural as part of the Vancouver Biennale public art project.

"This is really going to have a transformative impact on our city in celebratory, fun, way," said Biennale spokeswoman Miriam Blume said Monday.

The “ginormous” mural, which will be seen from both land and water, is expected to become as much or more of an attraction for locals and tourists as the laughing statues at English bay, Blume said. An estimated 10.5 million people visit Granville Island annually.

And it’s not just the size of the mural that’s a big deal.

Os Gemeos have exhibited at prestigious institutions such as London’s Tate Modern and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art and are renowned for their art, inspired by hip-hop and Brazilian culture. This mural will be their largest project to date and their first in Canada.

Landing such high-profile artists would usually cost about \$1 million, Blume said.

But Ocean Concrete, the company that owns the silos, embraced the project and didn’t charge for the space. The non-profit Biennale expects it can cover the remaining costs – including \$21,000 for 1,400 cans of spray paint – for about \$125,000.

To raise the cash, the Biennale is hosting its first [Indiegogo crowdfunding campaign](#).

It hopes to get the entire city involved by encouraging people to contribute whether they can donate \$5 for a promise of good karma or \$10,000 to sponsor an entire silo.

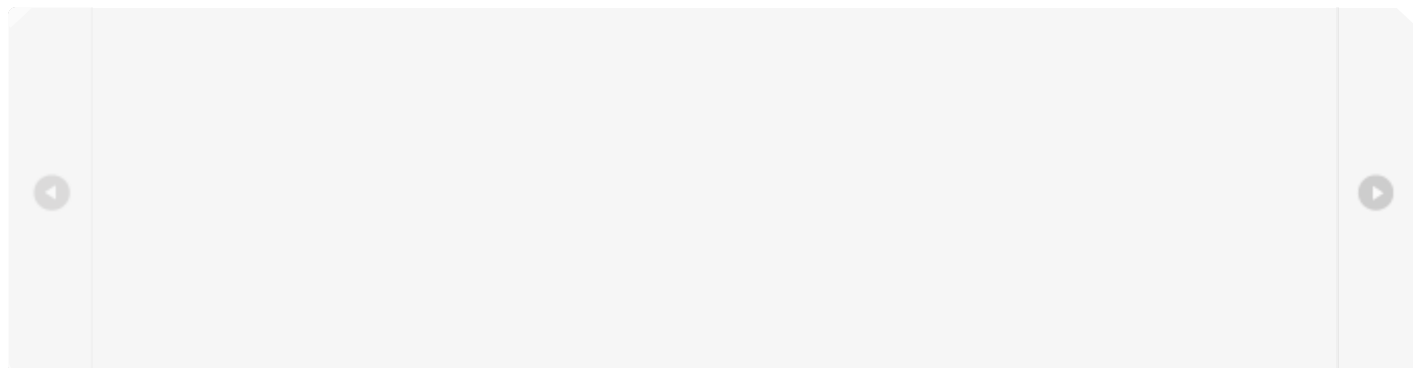
It has already raised more than \$17,700 from people around the world in the first five days of the campaign.

“We’re really trying to put this global community together and put this amazing thing to life,” Blume said.

Local Wolfgang Painters are painting the silos in blocks of bright colours before Os Gemeos begins its work on Wednesday.

“People are already starting to line up and take photos,” Blume said.

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