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Ai Weiwei public art revealed in Vancouver



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Metro

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A public art installation entitled "F Grass" by Ai Weiwei will be on display at Vancouver's Harbour Green Park for one year.

Vancouver Biennale

A spiky – and cheeky – piece of public art by one of the most powerful artists and human rights activists in the world will be unveiled in Vancouver on Wednesday.

Internationally renowned Chinese artist Ai Weiwei's installation entitled "F Grass" will be revealed at Harbour Green Park at Cordova and Bute, where it will be on display for one year as part of the Vancouver Biennale.

The piece is made of metal ground spikes that, when seen from above, make the shape of an F.

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In China, the word grass has become a tongue-in-cheek

substitution for the F-word due to a similar pronunciation. It's become a cheeky way to outsmart the censors that monitor the Internet.

Ai Weiwei has consistently run afoul of the Chinese government for his activism and art. He had a particularly scathing blog on social network Sina Weibo that was shut down by the government in 2009.

He was arrested by the government when trying to leave the country in 2011. He is no longer under arrest, but he is not allowed to leave the country.

Biennale organizers describe his piece as commentary that people will express themselves, no matter how absurd the government control.

“The tone of defiance is clear,” organizers state. “Ai Weiwei getting his message out to the world despite his continued physical detainment in a country that seems so eager to shut him up.”