VANCOUVER SCULPTURE PERFORMANCE NEW MEDIA IN PUBLIC SPACES BIENNALE →

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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WOW WESTMINSTER – THE LARGEST ART INSTALLATION OF THE 2014-2016 Vancouver Biennale is about to arrive on the waterfront in NEW WESTMINSTER

Vancouver: You have seen the 24,000 sq. foot mural called _GIANTS_ on the concrete silos at Granville Island, the 35 foot totem of cars known as _TRANS AM TOTEM_ off the viaduct on Quebec Street and the 14 _A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER_sculptures at English Bay. Now come watch the installation of the largest public artwork of the 2014-2016 Vancouver Biennale, possibly in Canada, at WESTMINSTER PIER PARK in New Westminster. This 140 foot installation comprising of 4 forty foot shipping containers precariously cantilevered to form a 'W', is designed by the famous Brazilian artist José Resende. This installation will become the dominant view along the Fraser River, from the bridges above and the newest public art legacy of the Vancouver Biennale OPEN AIR MUSEUM.

Marcello Dantas, the Vancouver Biennale's senior curator, credited with having chosen the site and the artist says, "Resende's _WOW WESTMINSTER_ is not only an interpretation of the economic activity of the Fraser River and the flow of goods through trains, ships and trucks, it's also about capturing the energy & history of this transportation hub, the transformation of the City of New Westminster and it's waterfront into a recreational Arts and Cultural playground. _WOW WESTMINSTER_ will become a respite for citizens and an icon of the City and region for decades as viewers explore the River side walk along Westminster Pier Park."

Media are invited to capture the dramatic installation of _WOW WESTMINSTER_ as this 34,000 pound artwork is offloaded in parts from a barge on the Fraser River and assembled into position. New Westminster Mayor, Jonathan X. Coté, Founder of the Vancouver Biennale, Barrie Mowatt, and award winning Brazilian curator, Marcello Dantas, will be onsite during this historic moment for interviews.

Artwork Installation:
Date: Monday, November 23
Installation Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: Timber Wharf at Westminster Pier Park

FOR SITE ACCESS AND INTERVIEWS WITH THE CURATOR &/OR THE VANCOUVER BIENNALE CONTACT:

Barrie Mowatt: 604-682-1289 office; 778-288-7603 cell/ text (no messages) or barrie@vancouverbiennale.com
Ammar Mahimwalla: 604-682-1289 office; 778-887-8786 cell / text or ammar@vancouverbiennale.com

FOR INTERVIEWS WITH THE MAYOR OF NEW WESTMINSTER, JONATHAN X. COTÉ CONTACT:

Rob McCullough
Manager, Cultural Services

ABOUT JOSÉ RESENDE

Born in 1945, in São Paulo, José Resende graduated with an Architecture degree in 1967 and completed a Master's degree in 1981. He subsequently received a research scholarship from the John Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

José Resende's resume of exhibitions includes many of the most prestigious international art events in the world, including a retrospective at Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (2015), the Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro (2011), several editions of the São Paulo Biennial (1967, 1983, 1989, 1998), Documenta 9 (Kassel, 1992), Venice Biennale (1988), Biennale de Paris (1980), 20th Century Brazilian Art (1987, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris), Latin American Artists of the Twentieth Century (1993), Museum of Modern Art (MoMA, New York), Brazil 500 – Rediscovery Exhibition (1999), ArteCidade SP (1994 and 2002), Mercosul Biennial (2001 and 2004), Contemporary art: an open story, Gabinete de Arte Raquel Arnaud, São Paulo (2004).

ABOUT MARCELLO DANTAS

Marcello Dantas is the senior curator for the 2014-2016 Vancouver Biennale where he has curated installations by famous Brazilian artists Vik Muniz in Squamish and OSGEMEOS in Vancouver, along with the 9,500 sq. ft. Brazilian Pavilion in North Vancouver.

Dantas has also curated the award-winning "Still Being" exhibition, by British artist Antony Gormley, in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia. This exhibition was the 7th most visited in the world in 2012, with an impressive outdoor extension seen by millions of people. He was also responsible for the public art event "OiR – Other ideas for Rio" (2012), with artworks by six prestigious artists, including Robert Morris, Brian Eno and Ryoiji Ikeda, installed in iconic open-air locations in Rio de Janeiro. He has also curated solo exhibitions of renowned international artists such as Christian Boltanski, Bill Viola, Anish Kapoor, Jaume Plensa, Jenny Holzer, Tino Sehgal and Rebecca Horn.

Dantas is responsible for redefining the concept of museology in Brazil, by bringing unprecedented doses of technology, interactivity and multimedia resources to offer the visitor what he calls "an experience of total immersion". He is responsible for developing and curating several museums including the Museum of Portuguese Language, the Museum of the American Man, the Telecommunications Museum and the Museum of Mining and Metal in Brazil. Other international projects include the Museum of the Caribbean in Barranquilla (Colombia) and "Pelé Station" in Berlin, during the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER BIENNALE

The Vancouver Biennale is a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space. Each exhibition transforms the urban landscape into an Open Air Museum, creating globally inspired cultural experiences where people live, work, play, and transit.

The Vancouver Biennale features internationally renowned and emerging contemporary artists that represent a diversity of cultural perspectives and artistic disciplines including sculpture, new media, performance works, music and film. The objective is to use great art as a catalyst for community engagement, learning and social action. For more information about other public art installations across Metro Vancouver and information on the award-winning BIG IDEAS Education Program currently in 110 schools across 10 school districts, please visit:www.vancouverbiennale.com