

Bus shelter art shares ‘rules’ of Vancouver

By Michael Mui, 24 Hours Vancouver
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U.K. artist Peter Liversidge. Pirje Mykkänen, Finnish National Gallery

A U.K. contemporary artist who came up with 17 different “rules” for Vancouver from his city artist’s residency will have his work displayed at 10 different bus stop shelters in Vancouver until May.

Peter Liversidge likes to work with words. His art is deceptively simple and takes the form of a sheet of paper with 17 typewriter-inke rules that are up for interpretation.

“As a member you will know what to do,” the first rule invites, almost nudging the reader on, followed by quirky suggestions for visits to “take one 90-second time-out,” or later on, a reminder that “no lollygagging” is permitted.

“Number 9 came from the experience of walking through Stanley Park, the idea to walk along the shore returning all the flotsam and jetsam into the sea, sort of poetic, but impossible,” Liversidge said.

“Number 10 is from a very large book about how to traverse the Panama Canal. What’s important, or not important, isn’t necessarily that everyone knows that. But it’s a sense of presenting that in a very public place — a bus shelter.”

Liversidge, who came up with the rules following a month in Vancouver in 2014, compared presenting the art by typewriter to painting or sculpting, in that imperfections — such as a retyped letter, or a misspelled word — can't be fully erased.

Rules for Vancouver was done in partnership with the Vancouver Biennale.

Part of the fun, Liversidge said, will be for Vancouverites to check out his rules and come up with their own.

“One of them could be, ‘I don't want someone from London telling me what the rules should be,’ maybe that's a rule?” he laughed.

Submit your own rule at twtpoll.com/vancouverrules

Artwork bus stops:

Bute and Davie

West Pender and Davie

Commercial and Adanac

Nootka and East 29th

Rupert and Broadway

Slocan and Kingsway

Tyne and East 49th

Victoria and Upland

West 4th and Highbury

West 10th and Sasamat