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MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005

VANCOUVER



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■ **THE INAUGURAL** Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale got its start in the wake of a trio of public sculpture exhibits in 1998, 2000 and 2002.

SOURCE: www.vancouverbiennale.com

■ **THE BIENNALE** is the largest public art exhibit and festival in Vancouver and the only event of its kind in North America.

SOURCE: www.vancouverbiennale.com

■ **AMONG THE** planned events during the Biennale's 18-month term is a cellphone tour, an artist lecture series, a photo and video contest, a festival of nations and a gala awards ceremony.

SOURCE: www.vancouverbiennale.com

Biennale brings bevy of sculptures

By JEFF HODSON
Metro Vancouver

A local organization hopes to make the city a world destination for outdoor sculpture.

Framed by the natural beauty of the city's parks, the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale showcases 30 massive sculptures by 24 of the world's finest sculptors — including Bill Reid and Yoko Ono.

Barrie Mowatt, a well-known art curator and executive director of the Vancouver Biennale, says the 18-month installation represents the best of the best.

"They should be senior

artists that are well recognized at the museum level, to the point that in their country they would be considered national treasures," Mowatt said.

In addition to the Vancouver Biennale, which is the only one on the continent and the only sculpture-focused one in the world. The most famous is the Venice Biennale, which is more than 100 years old and generates several hundred thousand dollars a year.

"We have the opportunity in Vancouver to become the most important cultural art event on the continent," said Mowatt.

"Our economic analysts

are projecting that the Biennale has the capability of exceeding the dollars spent on sport in the province of B.C."

For the next 18 months, the sculptures will be set up in various Vancouver parks, and in other select locations, like UBC's botanical garden. Currently in an installation phase, the sculptures will be equipped with signs that allow people to learn more about the art by using their cellphone.

The sculptures will be available to the public — free — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The cost to transport and install the sculptures is more than \$600,000.



Canadian sculptor Khang Pham-New helps install his Realm Of Passion, part of the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale.

DAN FAIRCHILD/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Help sought for missing woman

Police are asking for the public's help in finding a 36-year-old Vancouver woman.

Terese Wong, who last spoke to a friend at 2 a.m. on Saturday, has been going through some personal problems, and police are concerned that she might try to harm herself. Wong, who lives in Southeast Vancouver, is five-foot-four-inches tall and weighs 115 pounds. She has brown eyes and shoulder-length brown hair.

VPD calls death 'suspicious'

Vancouver Police Department has dubbed the death of a 44-year-old Surrey man on Saturday night as "suspicious." The man was sleeping at an acquaintance's house on 22nd Avenue near Cambie Street. The acquaintance could not rouse the man from his sleep and called paramedics. The man was already dead when they arrived. An autopsy is scheduled for today.

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