

# Vancouver Biennale kicks off public art exhibition on June 20

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arem's Paradise Has Many Gates. HANDOUT / VANCOUVER BIENNALE

The weather in Vancouver is so nice, even the art is going outside.

Vancouver Biennale 2018-2020 has announced its fourth edition, titled "re-IMAGE-n". The latest celebration of public art will begin on June 20, when Saudi artist Aijan Gharem's Paradise Has Many Gates — a small, open-air sculpture in the shape of a mosque — will appear at Vanier Park.



Aijan Gharem's Paradise Has Many Gates. HANDOUT / VANCOUVER BIENNALE

The installation resembles a traditional mosque, but it differs in two distinct ways: its unconventional materials — Gharem has built the piece from chain-link fencing — and its transparency, as the artist challenges notions of religious orthodoxy and, in keeping with the theme of the event, "reimagines" a space free from Islamophobia.

The installation will be more than just a feast for the eyes, however. Used as a communal space, Paradise Has Many Gates will play host to two initiatives: "Weaving Cultural Identities," which brings First Nations weavers and graphic artists together with South Asian, Central Asian, and Middle Eastern Muslim communities for collaboration, and the "Sunset Picnic in the Park" on Multicultural Day, June 27.

Other artists announced include Vancouver-based Maskull Lasserre's Acoustic Anvil: A Small Weight to Forge the Sea, which will appear in Leg In Boot Square in early July. Lasserre's three-by-seven-metre monolithic anvil is meant to draw attention to the industrial history of the glass and concrete-heavy False Creek — reimagining the neighbourhood, in other words.

In August, Montreal-based sculptor Michel de Broin's Diversions will reimagine the role of Vancouver's bike paths in both Devonian Harbour Park and Charleson Parks. Per a news release, "the artist's whimsical and ironic bike paths, created by dropping rope on an aerial photograph of the city, will transform areas around the seawall into a series of endlessly meandering paths," overturning the meticulous work of city planners to "deploy chance as an unpredictable experience, opening up imagination and mobility."

And in September, Melbourne artist Patricia Piccinini's Curious Imaginings will come to Vancouver. Piccinini's hyperrealist "world of oddly captivating, somewhat grotesque, human-animal hybrid creatures" will be her first exhibit in a non-museum setting, instead taking over a wing of the century-old Patricia Hotel.

Piccinini's interactive exhibit will, per the release, "challenge us to explore the social impacts of emerging bio-technology and our ethical limits in an age where genetic engineering and digital technologies are already pushing the boundaries of humanity."

The ticketed exhibition will open this September and run for 90 days.

Additional artists and events will be released as they are confirmed.

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