

## MAGDALENA ABAKANOWICZ'S HEADLESS WALKING FIGURES TAKE THEIR LEAVE AND RETURN HOME TO EUROPE.



**(Vancouver, BC)** Four of what once were eleven ten-foot tall cast iron *HEADLESS WALKING FIGURES* by renowned sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz, installed by the Vancouver Biennale at the City Hall Canada Line Station, will be taking their leave on Thursday morning to begin their journey back to Europe and into the collections of two prestigious collectors.

There were 20 *HEADLESS WALKING FIGURES* in the original installation at Queen Elizabeth Park in the 2005-2007 Vancouver Biennale. 15 of the sculptures have been acquired by collectors over the past 16 years. Since the artist's death in 2017, three sculptures have gone to Edmonton, three to a Vancouver collection, three to the Musee des Beaux Arts / Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and two to collections in the USA.

Vancouver Biennale Artistic Director and Founder, Barrie Mowatt, hopes that the remaining five *HEADLESS WALKING FIGURES* will be saved by a local philanthropist and find a permanent home in the City of Vancouver's public art collection for all citizens to enjoy in perpetuity. "It was the artist's intent for the sculptures to provide a revenue stream to support the Vancouver Biennale's public programming and International Artists Residencies," says Mowatt, "but with the escalation in Abakanowicz prices, the sale of her artwork has been tremendous for the Vancouver based non-profit charitable arts organization and an impetus for other exhibiting international artists to make legacy donations. Having lost the opportunity to keep several public artworks by major international art stars, the Vancouver Biennale hopes a local benefactor will come forward to save the remaining five Abakanowicz *HEADLESS WALKING FIGURES*."

The Vancouver Biennale is a non-profit charitable organization that exhibits great art in public space, creating a catalyst for learning, community engagement, dialogue, and social action. Our mission is to make Public Art accessible, engaging, and motivating to create vibrant and inspired communities.

## MEDIA CONTACT

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