

[View this email in your browser](#)

PRESS RELEASE

March 8, 2021

VANCOUVER BIENNALE
VANCOUVER BIENNALE



Vancouver Wakes Up to a Giant Surprise as the Vancouver Biennale
Launches a Six-Month Extension to its *re-IMAGE-n* Exhibition.

Vancouver, Canada: A 5.5m (18ft) tall, 2 ton sculpture called *The Proud Youth* will make its way to Vancouver's North False Creek seawall this morning. Within a few hours, the crew and crane will complete the installation and reveal an enormous boy with towering pose and equally big mischievous grin. It's a clear shout-out to our inner child, and the perfect, playful beginning to the Vancouver Biennale's six-month extension to its 2018-2020 exhibition. The full program will unfold over the spring and summer months and include new public art installations, BIKEnnale/WALKennale interactive walking and cycling tours, free online educational programs a new and highly addictive YouTube channel, and immersive augmented reality experiences that will redefine your relationship with art in public space. All elements of the exhibition are COVID safe and freely accessible for everyone to play, learn, connect, and transform through art.

"When we announced in May of 2018 the curatorial theme *re-IMAGE-n* for our 2018-2020 exhibition, we never imagined that halfway through we'd have to reimagine the exhibition itself. Then along came COVID. It's been a time of great discovery for us, finding new opportunities for collaboration, new ways to connect to global audiences, and new ways to create and evolve the experience of public art," says Barrie Mowatt, Founder and Artistic Director of the Vancouver Biennale. "With the Biennale's objective to be ahead of the curve, these next six months may very well be our best yet."

This second phase of *re-IMAGE-n* will explore themes of Indigenous knowledge and learning practices, ocean literacy and environmental stewardship, and technology as a driving force for new artistic practices and global connectivity: a re-imagining of what is *public* space.

Here are a few highlights of things to come:

Voxel Bridge (Jessica Angel, Colombia/USA)
Setting the bar for augmented reality, this 34,000-square-foot art installation will transform the area underneath Vancouver's Cambie Street Bridge into a mesmerizing immersive art experience. The artwork explores how public space can be constructed in both digital and physical realities and draws visual parallels between blockchain technology and the structural integrity of the bridge. It's an artistic and technical achievement that cannot be missed!

Green Bean (Cosimo Cavallaro, Canada/USA)
A favourite from our last exhibition is back, but in a decidedly different form. With a playful nod to the past, when public art was defined as monuments on pedestals, we bring you a giant green jellybean mounted in this traditional way. It's a visual contradiction that's guaranteed to make you laugh, with a nuanced message about the environment that will get you thinking about all things green.

WE ARE THE ASTEROID III (Justin Brice Guariglia, USA)
This solar-powered LED message board – like those typically found at construction sites – alerts viewers to slow down and beware of dangers ahead. Instead of road conditions, the board features aphorisms calling attention to ecological issues. Through poetry, metaphor, and humor, audiences are drawn into the conversation about the planetary crisis. Guariglia has frequently collaborated with philosophers, poets, scientists and writers to forge a deeper understanding of human impact on the planet, including a series of missions he's flown with NASA scientists to document Greenland's rapidly changing ice.

WE ARE OCEAN - Vancouver
Vancouver is the only city in North America to participate in the global ARTPORT_WE ARE OCEAN program involving artists, scientists and young people around the world exploring ocean health. WE ARE OCEAN – Vancouver is an artistic contribution to the Preparatory Phase of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) through IOC-UNESCO.

BIG IDEAS
We have gone from local to national. Two education programs have been created based on Indigenous knowledge, storytelling, and STEAM principles of learning. One is a series of four video modules with corresponding learning guides created by Vancouver artists and educators T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss and Olivier Salvas. Students will learn about the impact climate change has on the ecosystems throughout the land of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

The second educational program is the launch of a series of films by one of the most internationally celebrated Indigenous directors in the world today, Alanis Obomsawin of the Abenaki First Nation. With a career spanning over 50 years, Obomsawin explores past, present, and alternative narratives about Indigenous histories and experiences. Her films have become cinematic forces for change.

All program videos, films, learning and activity guides are accessible online, self-paced, and free with registration to all teachers and parents looking for exceptional learning opportunities for youth.

Vancouver Biennale Official YouTube Channel
Stay tuned for amazing content on our new YouTube channel. You'll soon find a collection of films, documentaries, and interviews that provoke, educate, and endlessly entertain. It's a rare collection that includes a retrospective of films by Ai Weiwei, Oliver Stone's sweeping *The Untold History of the United States*, along with many other influential voices from the contemporary art world. We begin with *Parley*, an interview series by Marc Johnson looking to better understand the Vancouver art scenes through the voices of their creators. *Parley* includes over 30 interviews with First Nations and non-Indigenous artists and curators including Stan Douglas, Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun, Ian Wallace, and many others.

BIKEnnale/WALKennale
Our cycling and walking tours are coming back better than ever. Register once, and you'll receive new self-paced bike and walking tours throughout the spring and summer that take you to great public art installations, historical and architectural curiosities, and new interactive virtual art experiences around the city. The BIKEnnale/WALKennale routes are the perfect art-infused, COVID-safe outdoor recreational activity for people of all ages and athletic abilities. Go on as many tours as you like, whenever you like, and as often as you like. Stay tuned for announcements on registration!

Stay Tuned for Announcements

FACEBOOK | [VancouverBiennale](#)

INSTAGRAM | [@van_biennale](#)

TWITTER | [@van_biennale](#)

WEBSITE | [vancouverbiennale.com](#)

Media Contact: Allison Grey-Noble | allison@vancouverbiennale.com | 604 682 1289

Vancouver Biennale humbly acknowledges that its work takes place on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional lands of the x̱məθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwetaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations of the Coast Salish peoples.