

Giant Baroque Heads Appear in Richmond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vancouver, Canada - The Vancouver Biennale announces the installation of "Cabeza Vainilla, Cabeza Cordoba, Cabeza Chiapas" by internationally renowned Mexican artist Javier Marin, located at No. 3 Road, Landsdown Station in Richmond. The three sculptures, depicting three giant heads in Spanish Baroque style, present a powerful and unexpected statement in the hub of the city as if they were left there from an ancient time.

The Vancouver Biennale continues its exhibition with the installation of Cabeza Vainilla, Cabeza Cordoba, Cabeza Chiapas by Javier Marin of Mexico. Javier Marins sculptures make a profound impression whenever they are exhibited. The gigantic heads are made of polyester resin and iron but appear as if rendered in clay. They are the color of terracotta, the red clay of the earth, a material with special significance to many cultures. They suggest remnants or fragments of some ancient monument to unknown heroes. The forms look like they are from a distant time, powerful yet anguished, left to decay and be mused upon. The realistically rendered heads retain their dignity and emit a sense of history, suggesting both strength and fragility. They rest precariously on edges, as if about to roll. They wear the mantle and dress of another time; maybe Conquistadores, Aztecs or Mayas or the faces of Marins native Mexico, yet all are shaped in the style of Spanish Baroque sculpture. A set of these sculptures in bronze has been exhibited in Milan and the Hague Holland, then will be exhibited in Brussels this summer before moving to Luxembourg and Barcelona.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Javier Marin was born in Uruapan, in the Michoacán region of Mexico. He is one of the foremost Mexican figurative sculptors. Since 1983 he has presented more than 50 solo exhibitions and has participated in more than 200 collective exhibitions in Mexico, the US, Canada, Central America, South America and in Europe. Marin also represented Mexico at the 2005 Venice Biennale.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER BIENNALE

The Vancouver Biennale is a non-profit organization that mounts biannual public art exhibitions outdoors, creating an open air museum. Each exhibition features world-class international sculptures, new media and performance art located in parks, beaches and urban plazas. The objective is to celebrate art in public spaces and to create a uniquely accessible cultural destination where residents and visitors from around the world can come to experience the brightest new and world renown talent in contemporary art completely free of charge, throughout the seasons.

The emphasis is on engagement, accessibility, diversity and education. Through a diversity of artistic mediums, aesthetic sensibilities and cultural perspectives, an open dialogue about the art and the importance of art in public spaces begins. The Vancouver Biennale also produces publications, curriculum, professional symposiums and public lecture series.

Pursuing the theme in-TRANSIT-ion, the 2009-2011 exhibition will expand and situate art along bike routes, at the Vancouver International Airport and at new Canada Line stations. In doing so, the exhibition will emphasise the physical movement of people in our mobile society, as well as our changing attitudes and sensibilities towards public art.

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