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Vancouver Canada - The Vancouver Biennale announces the North American debut of Chinese artist Jun Ren with two monumental sculptures, "Freezing Water #7", located along the seawall in Vanier Park and Water #10 located at Cambie Plaza, Richmond. These incredible stainless steel sculptures capture the magic of water suspended in air, elegant and awe-inspiring in their grand proportions.

Chinese artist Jun Ren makes his North American debut with the magnificent Freezing Water #7 and Water #10 as part of the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale. Freezing Water #7, located in Vanier Park, punctuates the horizon overlooking the Burrard Inlet and mountains beyond. It reflects the sweep of nature that surrounds it and maintains an elegance, despite its 90-foot horizontal span and weight of over 6 tons.

The equally amorphic Water #10, located at Cambie Plaza in Richmond, marks the start of the Middle Arm Greenway trail and will greet visitors walking from the Aberdeen Canada Line Station to the Richmond Olympic Oval. This sculpture stands vertically 52 feet high and weighs over 2 tons. Jun Ren draws his inspiration from pure forms, liquid water or mercury stopped in motion to reveal its shape as a drop or spill caught in the air. With no angles or hard edges, both sculptures flow visually in the air and appear light and fluid.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jun Ren graduated from the Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, Shaanxi Province, China. Jun Ren represents the energy and opportunity of the 'New China', living outside the metropolis of Beijing; he has become a successful and respected sculptor of monumental and historical sculpture with works spanning cities from South to North of China, including many emerging industrial cities. His older work embodies a spirit of heroism that reflects the political, economic, cultural and historical characteristics and contradictions that flow through this time of great transition in Chinese society. His recent body of work is a dramatic departure in form, and inspiration from his earlier representational work.

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, urban plazas and transit stations. The objective is to celebrate art in public spaces, inviting the entire community 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 art in public spaces begins. The Vancouver Biennale is committed to leaving a legacy of public art in the city by acquiring two major pieces of sculpture from each exhibition and offering them to Vancouver and surrounding area for long-term display. 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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