

**WALKING**  
**STRIDE WITH PRIDE!**

By Vancouver Biennale x Pride Art Walk

5 KM / 6,250 - 7,500 STEPS  
 1 - 2 HOURS

**ABOUT THE TOUR**

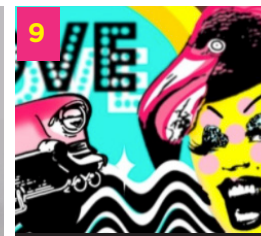
Come for a walk with us in the West End, passing along Davie Street and heading to English bay, and enjoy Vancouver's LGBTQIA2+ culture in addition to a number of recent artworks, installed just in time for PRIDE!!

Tip: If you walk with us on the 24th or 31st, you might be able to catch the live painting in Jim Deva Plaza.

If you find something colourful, tag us in a photo (#VanBiennale) and share it on your favourite social-media platform.

**ROUTE STOPS**

1	<b>PURRRIDE - GALACTICKITTY</b>	1200 Bute St.
2	<b>STRUT 2018 - MARTI BOIVIN &amp; KAREN OLDRIDGE</b>	Denman & Davie St.
3	<b>A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER - YUE MINJUN</b>	<b>Denman &amp; Davie St.</b>
4	<b>all flowers deserve to play- semillites hernández velasco</b>	Nelson Park
5	<b>IKEA PRIDE LOVESEATS</b>	555 Burrard St.
6	<b>STEP WITH ME - TANGIBLE INTERACTION</b>	555 Burrard St.
7	<b>it's fun to sway at the ymca - ZANDI DANDIZETT</b>	Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza
8	<b>SUMMER OF PRIDE - CHASE GRAY</b>	745 Nelson St.
9	<b>DIVINE LOVE - CHRISTINA HRYC AKA BOOTS</b>	1042 Davie St.
10	<b>LIVE PAINTING VIA SNAG (JULY 24TH + 31ST)</b>	1200 Bute St.





## #1 - PURRRIDE - GALACTICKITTY

*Purrride / Galactickitty / 2021*

Although climbing on this mural is discouraged, you are welcome to take a seat on the benches to enjoy the artwork.

Artist statement: Two figures ride blissfully through the cosmos on top of a giant unicorn cat. Moths flutter about, drawn in closer by the light, and everything the unicat touches turns into colour. The journey of this magical trio has only just begun. This piece is not only about the birth story of the artists, Galactickitty, but the celebration of coming together, communities rising above, and the transformation into being fierce and being seen for who you really are.

Galactickitty is the culmination of the collaborative artworks of Vancouver-based artists Jenn "Slingshot" Brisson and Phresha. Jenn comes from a classical animation background while Phresha comes from a street art background combined with a formal graphic design education. The artists connected through their love of art, nature, whimsical hybrid creatures, and cats. Although they come from different backgrounds and styles, people started commenting that both artists' characters seem to live in the same world. Seeing how they shared the same ethereal imagination, they decided to see what would happen if they collaborated more. Their common goal in creating public art is to make people smile, evoking feelings of playful wonder and ethereal beauty, while whisking them away to magical worlds. With their surreal and out-of-this-world art, they hope to spread colour and whimsy through their paintings, street art and murals all around the world.

Check them out on Instagram: @galactickitty.art @jennbrissonart @phresha



## #2 - STRUT 2018 - MARTI BOIVIN & KAREN OLDRIDG

*Strut, 2018 / Marti Boivin & Karen Oldridge / 2021*

Please do not touch or climb on this artwork.

Artist statement: Having received a grant from the City of Vancouver, the artists created Strut for the Vancouver Pride 2018 celebration, for which it was the event's feature artwork. Debuting at the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza for the Pride Premier celebration, it had its main showing in the Jim Deva Plaza for the entirety of the Pride Festival. The artwork is a large-scale representation of a peacock and is meant to represent LGBTQ2A+ inclusivity. It has kinetic tail feathers that lift and open and lower and close by means of a custom-designed movement. At night, the body and tail feathers are lit up by projectors displaying colourful moving video loops. Participants can interact with the lighting by means of a series of buttons that change the video loops.

Did you know that many birds are bisexual? As part of the LGBTQ2A+ community, we wanted to bring awareness to bi-erasure and bi-phobia. The peacock is often a symbol used within the community to represent bisexuality (as the bird is rumoured to be bisexual).





### #3 - A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER - YUE MINJUN

***A-maze-ing Laughter***  
**Yue Minjun**  
**2009 - 2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition**

*A-maze-ing Laughter* was the most beloved sculpture of the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition, captivating throngs of visitors and inspiring endless playful interaction. This artwork is a legacy of the Vancouver Biennale and was presented as a gift to the people of Vancouver, thanks to a generous donation from Chip and Shannon Wilson. It has quickly become an iconic cultural beacon in the city and will continue to inspire and engage the imagination of future generations of residents and visitors from its home in Morton Park.

In *A-maze-ing Laughter* Beijing-based artist Yue Minjun depicts his own iconic laughing image, with gaping grins and closed eyes in a state of hysterical laughter, elements that contribute to the artist's signature trademark. The longer one looks at the 14 cast-bronze figures, the more the contradiction of the silent, frozen form of sculpture becomes obvious.

"I'd like to extend my most sincere gratitude to the Vancouver Biennale and the Chip Wilson family, who helped me realize my dream to have my work, *A-maze-ing Laughter*, become a legacy public art work in Vancouver," says artist Yue Minjun. "I appreciate your respect and passion for art. My intention when making this series of sculptures was to use art to touch the heart of each visitor and to have them enjoy what art brings to them. I feel honored and happy to have my work displayed in Vancouver. I seem to have seen your smiling faces in my heart."



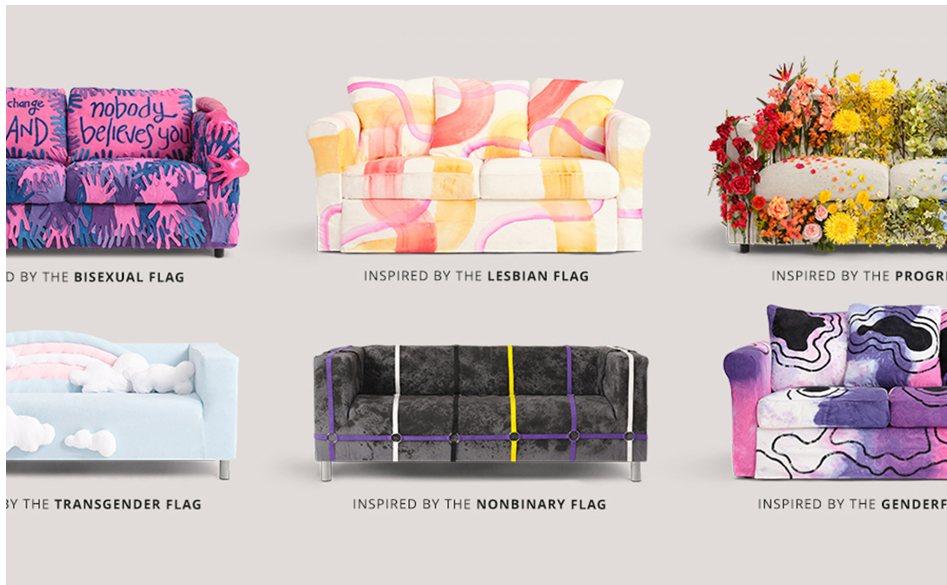
### #4 - If flowers deserve to play- semillites hernández velasco

***all flowers deserve to play* / semillites hernández velasco (they/he) / 2021**

*Please enjoy playing hopscotch, but respect this art project so that others may appreciate it, too.*

Artist Statement: As someone who lost their support system at the beginning of their transition, I wish I felt accompanied through this road. For a while I thought I did not deserve to be supported. I see clearly now that we trans people deserve to be loved, cared for, and supported. We deserve to walk through our transition with joy, accompanied by flowers and loved ones in public. We deserve representation on our transitions that center our euphoria and pleasure. This artwork invites everyone around us to walk with us, to transit with us. My goal at the end of the project is to gift the flowers to queer, trans people, and other members of our community who have ever thought they don't deserve flowers.

semillites hernández velasco (they/he) is a trans and brown visual artist and printmaker based in "Vancouver," on the unceded territory of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations. semillites was born in Mexico City in 1995, and at 19, he immigrated north. semillites comes from a family of campesinos (peasants) in central México, whose teachings he attempts to inject into his art practice. semillites' artwork aims to be imperfect, brown, trans, sincere, with a deep love for color and collective. semillites' mediums range from drawing and textile art to music and graphic design to anything that he can learn. semillites sees all of their artwork as love letters to himself and every person, flower and grasshopper that has ever crossed their path.



## #5 - IKEA PRIDE LOVESEATS

### **Pride Loveseats by IKEA**

**IKEA Canada in collaboration with members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. 2021**

*Love Seat inspired by the Progress Flag*

This Love Seat was designed by Ali Haider, a Canadian fashion designer who is an ally to the 2SLGBTQ+ community. The Progress Flag Love Seat features the story of Waseem Shayk who shares their story of community love as part of the campaign.

*Love Seat inspired by the Transgender Flag*

This Love Seat was designed by Madison Van Rijn, a queer illustrator and muralist. The Transgender Flag Love Seat features the story of Jules who shares their story of romantic love as part of the campaign.



## #6 - STEP WITH ME - TANGIBLE INTERACTION

### **Step With Me**

**Tangible Interaction 2021**

*While walking up and down the stairs of this artwork, please avoid touching or climbing on the sound speakers.*

**ARTIST STATEMENT:** Music, dance, and play have brought us together since the beginning of time. While we can talk, promote, and elevate acceptance and inclusion, there are not that many places where we can exercise it. There is nothing like gathering in a setting where we can lose ourselves in the moment, where we can make music, dance, and be silly. At the end of the day, it does not matter who we are or what our preferences are. When it is time to have fun and express ourselves, we are celebrating our diverse humanity. Step With Me is our invitation to have fun, be foolish, and celebrate. This is our way of challenging you to be in the moment (no matter how we present ourselves), to accept ourselves and others, and to be proud of who we are.

Tangible is a Vancouver-based art and design studio dedicated to creating experiences that connect and inspire here and now. In this hyper-connected world, we feel more disconnected from each other and our environments than ever before. Tangible's work brings people together, inviting them to be fully present in the moment and engaged with all their senses and their surroundings. Reigniting people's sense of wonder is at the heart of Tangible's designs. Their artworks evoke curiosity and playfulness, fostering indelible connections through striking experiences and memorable moments.





**#7 - it's fun to sway at the ymca - ZANDI DANDIZETT**

***it's fun to sway at the ymca***  
**Zandi Dandizette (they/them)**  
**2021**

*We encourage you to enjoy this whimsical artwork and take photos, but please do not touch it.*

**ARTIST STATEMENT** *it's fun to sway at the ymca* (2021) reclaims air dancers directly after the dystopian Planet Fitness branded air dancers at the Times Square NYE Ball Drop of 2021. Peter Minshall, an artist from Trinidad and Tobago, devised the concept of an inflatable dancer, and it was developed, by a team that included Israeli artist Doron Gazit and Arie Dranger, for the 1996 Summer Olympics. Minshall originally called his invention the "Tall Boy." Gazit eventually patented the concept of an inflatable, dancing human-shaped balloon, and licensed the patent to various companies that manufacture and sell the devices. This movement of an art object into a tool for advertising and business is the commodification of art. Through Zandi Dandizette's utilization of the original design with their own character Fractal Being printed on it, Zandi reclaims the wacky inflatable man as a business tool back into an art object while also touching on the multiplicity of identity, and celebration of it. This jestful work is a response to the commodification of identity and the corporatization of PRIDE.

**Instagram and Twitter:** @zandidandizette

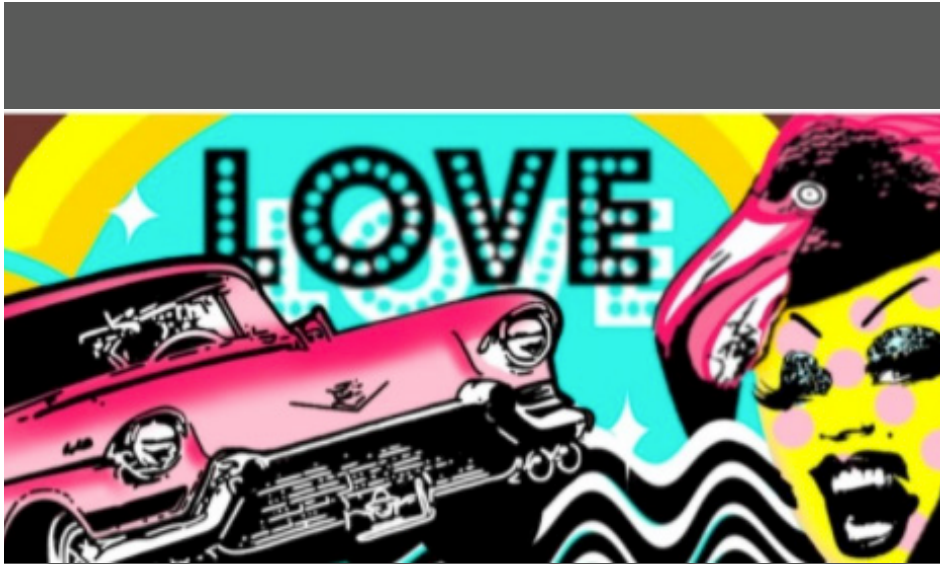


**#8 - SUMMER OF PRIDE - CHASE GRAY**

***Summer of Pride***  
**Chase Gray**  
**2021**

*Please do not climb on this artwork.*

**ARTIST STATEMENT:** My main focus while working on this piece was to celebrate Indigenous and Queer joy, and the summer in the Northwest Coast. Lower Mainland summers make me think of the ocean, and spending time with my sisters and grandma as a kid. Catching bugs, poking at crabs, colourful sunsets, and when I was really small, seeing if I was lucky enough to see a mermaid or orca while I was on the ferry. Knowing the plight of our resident killer whale population, I had to include them in the waters. I also included the trans flag because that is the experience I have lived.



## #9 - DIVINE LOVE - CHRISTINA HRYC AKA BOOTS

### *Divine Love / Christina Hryc aka Boots / 2021*

*Artist Statement:* This project is a love letter to Davie Village and the West End. It is a visual celebration of a community with enough heart to embrace all aspects of the diverse rainbow that resides in Vancouver. The artwork is heavily influenced by the early work of John Waters and features drag icon Divine. My goal was to create a mural that embodies flamboyance, outrageousness, and celebration, with a gentle nod to our history. I wanted to create an anecdote about embracing individuality and authenticity. Like queer culture, love is fluid, limitless and selfless: it can never truly be defined.

Christina Hryc aka Boots is a multidisciplinary artist based in Vancouver, BC. Her current artistic focus includes painting, street art, murals, and tattooing. Since migrating from Hamilton, ON, Boots' imagery has been heavily saturated by the enchantment and splendour of her new homeland, particularly flowers and birds. Her style utilizes fluid line drawings with bold and bright colour fields, often layered with a floral and geometric pattern. This pattern seeks to emulate layers of graffiti with references to personal nostalgia, queer culture, and popular iconography. She is a voracious traveller and natural history scholar. She has completed murals in the United States, Central America, Mexico, and Canada.

**INSTAGRAM @ceeboots**



## #10 - LIVE PAINTING VIA SNAG (JULY 24TH + 31ST)

Have you ever seen a live painting event put on by SNAG!? This is a not-to-miss, really cool event if you can attend.

Names of participating artists:

- Paige Bowman
- Max Ammo
- Maya
- Addison Finch

This is the end of the tour! We hope that you enjoyed STRIDING WITH PRIDE with us today. We'd love to see your colourful photos! Don't be shy: tag us (#VanBiennale) in your photos.