



WALKING

# STEP INTO THE VORTEX

By Vancouver Biennale

5 KM ROUND TRIP | 6,250 - 7,500 STEPS  
1.25 - 1.75 HOURS

## ABOUT THE ROUTE

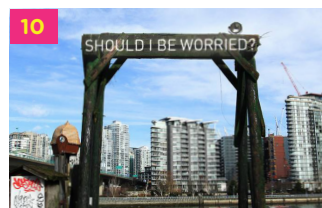
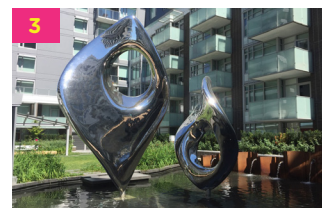
Welcome to STEP INTO THE VORTEX, a self-guided walking tour! Strap on your best walking shoes, and let's get exploring. This tour will guide you to discover public art and history around False Creek, Olympic Village, and Chinatown. These neighborhoods are incredibly diverse and hold many secrets from Vancouver's past and intriguing clues about its future.

While you're walking, take some time to look past the defined points of interest. Think about the people and places who have defined, and continue to define, Vancouver. What hidden gems can you find? What stories would be on the B-side?

Don't forget to share your photos and videos and tag us with the **#VanBiennale** hashtag! We're looking forward to seeing your memories of this ride.

## ROUTE STOPS

1	<b>THE STOP - MICHAEL ZHENG</b>	290 W 3rd Ave.
2	<b>REFINED - JILL ANHOLT</b>	88 W 1st Ave.
3	<b>EYES ON THE STREET - MARIE KHOURI</b>	1661 Quebec St.
4	<b>LET'S HEAL THE DIVIDE - TONI LATOUR</b>	<b>133 Keefer St.</b>
5	<b>EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT - MARTIN CREED</b>	51 E Pender St.
6	<b>ANDY LIVINGSTONE PARK</b>	89 Expo Blvd.
7	<b>OLYMPIC VILLAGE SQUARE</b>	85 W 1st Ave
8	<b>THE BIRDS - MYFANWY MACLEOD</b>	85 W 1st Ave
9	<b>VORTEX - JESSICA ANGEL</b>	<b>Hinge Park</b>
10	<b>SHOULD I BE WORRIED - JUSTIN LANGLOIS</b>	False Creek Seawall (East of Cambie St. bridge)
11	<b>VOXEL BRIDGE (COMING SOON) - JESSICA ANGEL</b>	<b>Cambie St. Bridge (south)</b>





**#1 - THE STOP - MICHAEL ZHENG**

***The Stop***  
**Michael Zheng**  
**2009 - 2001 Vancouver Biennale exhibition**

Zheng's work, like his Vancouver Biennale installation of a series of stop signs with their backs painted pink, is conceptually based, often taking the form of situational intervention, sculpture, or performance.

His work creates situations that challenge the established positions so that a new perspective becomes possible. His recent projects have taken on various forms of social intervention for which he considers himself a medium, or an enabler for certain experiences and perspectives.

Fun fact: *The Stop* appeared in two locations (Vanier Park and Charleson Park) during the 2009-2011 Vancouver Biennale exhibition.

Photo challenge: if it's a sunny day, can you defy the sun and capture *The Stop* in a photo or video? Be sure to use the #VanBiennale hashtag so that we see your post!



**#2 - REFINED - JILL ANHURST**

***Refined***  
**Jill Anholt**  
**2016**

Southeast False Creek, the site of this work, was once a hub of industry and processing, but has rapidly been converted from a quasi-abandoned and contaminated brownfield into a highly-designed, dense residential neighbourhood. The word 'refined' refers to both the process of removing unwanted elements to create an increasingly homogeneous and pure substance and also to the perception of characteristics such as elegance, sophistication, and urbanity.

The artwork, *Refined*, draws specifically on the forms and processes of salt purification which used to take place in the building immediately proximal to the site while exploring the overall transformation of the neighbourhood itself. The artwork is composed of five pure-white, conical sculptures of varying heights that sit within a recessed pool of recycled glass. During the day, the pure geometric forms and angular shapes of the surrounding glass elements catch and play with natural sunlight. At night, warm hued lights, evocative of the colour of salt in its raw unrefined state, cast a glow onto the artwork surfaces.

Did you notice that up on the roof of Craft Beer Market there is an old sign? This building used to be the Vancouver Salt Company!



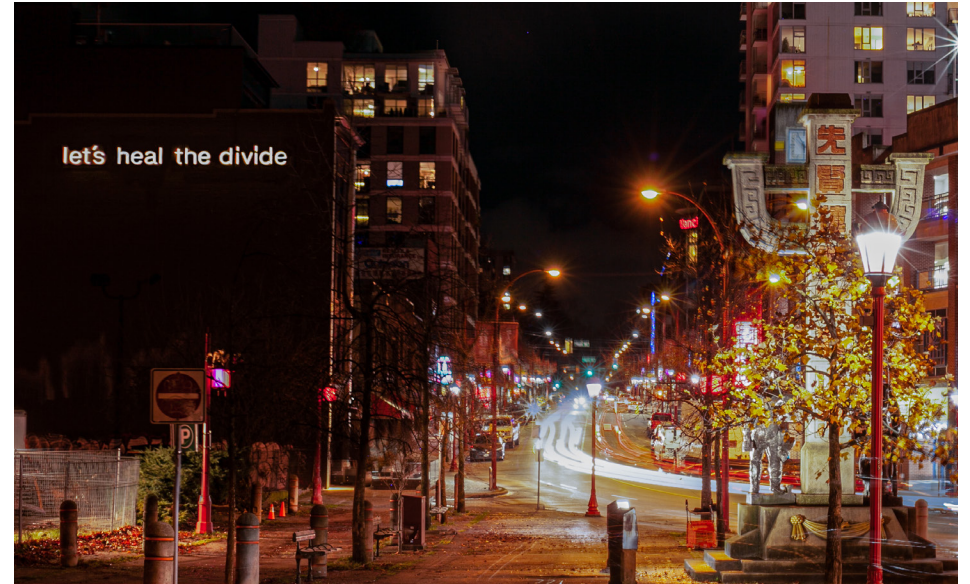
### #3 - EYES ON THE STREET - MARIE KHOURI

***Eyes on the Street***  
**Marie Khouri**  
**2018**

Take a break and check out the beautiful sights on Pullman Porter Street. Here you can see the large metallic sculpture *Eyes on the Street* by artists Marie Khouri and Charlotte Wall.

The artists were influenced by Jane Jacobs, renowned activist influencing urbanism, who said, speaking of cities, that “there must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street.” Jacob refers to the eyes of the many residents in areas of high density. They are always there providing a recording of the life on the street and in the environment.

Marie Khouri is an alumna of the Vancouver Biennale. Her sculpture entitled *Le Banc* was installed outside the Olympic Village Canada Line Station for the Biennale’s 2009-2011 exhibition.



### #4 - LET'S HEAL THE DIVIDE - TONI LATOUR

***let's heal the divide***  
**Toni Latour**  
**2020**

Look up! *let's heal the divide* was originally installed on the façade of Vancouver Community College for the 2015-2017 Vancouver Biennale. It marked the physical and perceptual divisions between the Downtown Eastside, one of the most impoverished postal codes in Canada, and one of the wealthiest commercial and financial districts.

Reinstalled in December 2020, the artwork is now located in Vancouver’s Chinatown, a neighbourhood confronted with gentrification, class inversion, and the threat of cultural displacement from urban developers and city rezoning.

From a broader perspective, the artwork also resonates beyond its physical surroundings. Globally, we have witnessed institutional and systemic racism and violence, intense political conflict, the rise of the Black Lives Matter and Me Too Movements, the fight to end targeted transgender violence and discrimination, the continued struggle for Indigenous rights and environmental justice, and of course, a worldwide pandemic.

What does *let's heal the divide* mean to you? How does it touch on your experience and in what ways do you think we can reconnect and repair? Take a photo or video sharing your thoughts on the subject, tag it with #VanBiennale so we see it!



**#5 - EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALRIGHT - MARTIN CREED**

***Everything Is Going To Be Alright***  
**Martin Creed**  
**2009**

Standing at the entrance of David Lam Hall at the Chinese Cultural Centre and looking northward, try to catch a glimpse of Martin Creed's *Everything Is Going To Be Alright* installation on the top of the Rennie Museum at the Wing Sang Building. Formally titled *Work No. 851* (2008), this seventy-five-foot neon artwork offers viewers an optimistic sentiment, which has been especially poignant during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vancouver has a bit of a complex relationship with neon signage. At one point, Vancouver boasted the second largest number of neon signs in the world, and at another time, neon signs were essentially outlawed!

Today, neon is making a resurgence—from public art installations to restaurant and shop signage. Along Hastings Street you can also find some of the city's historic neon signs, such as the *Save on Meats* sign. There's also a replica of the iconic red W sitting on top of the Woodward's development. (For you history buffs, the original W is displayed nearby in the public plaza.) If you're a fan of neon, check out the Museum of Vancouver's exhibition entitled *Neon Vancouver - Ugly Vancouver* (until spring 2022).



**#6 - ANDY LIVINGSTONE PARK**

**Andy Livingstone Park**  
**Designer: Durante Kreuk Ltd.**  
**1995**

Why not stop and explore this ten-acre play space that is host to a broad range of ages and activities?

Andy Livingstone Park is a redevelopment that saw the destruction of the Black community, known as Hogan's Alley, for the creation of the viaduct to the south. Hogan's Alley was the unofficial name for a T-shaped intersection at the southwestern edge of Strathcona that formed the nucleus of Vancouver's first concentrated Black community.



## #7 - OLYMPIC VILLAGE SQUARE

This spot is another ideal location for a little break!

Around you is the Olympic Village. This development has been deemed one of the greenest communities in the world, contributing to Vancouver's reputation of being a leader in sustainable development. The development includes innovations such as solar heating and green roofs. During the 2010 Winter Olympics this international "village" housed athletes and officials from across the world. Now it takes on the function of residential housing.



## #8 - THE BIRDS - MYFANWY MACLEOD

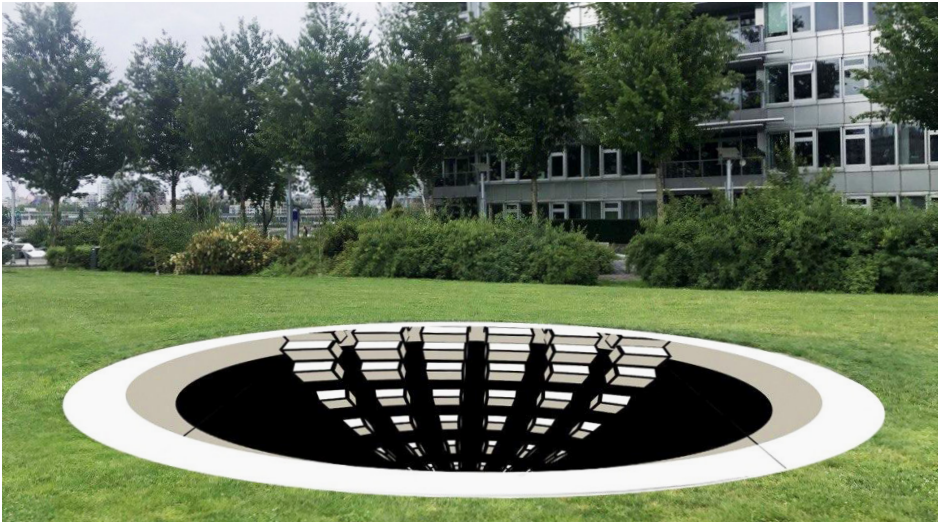
***The Birds***  
**Myfanwy MacLeod**  
**2010**

This duo of giant sparrows is one of Olympic Village's well known landmarks. Inspired by the classic horror film *The Birds*, the artist Myfanwy MacLeod created an artwork to be installed at the site of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Think these birds can't fly? Think again! Due to several years of abuse, mainly from skateboarders trying to catch an edge, *The Birds* had to be flown to Calgary and subsequently China for repairs. They eventually made their way back to their perches in Olympic Village where they remain today.

The artist Myfanwy MacLeod, says this in regard to the inspiration behind *The Birds*:

"We have a kind of romantic relationship to nature and I'm interested in playing with that romantic notion and kind of inverting it, sort of like how the birds attack in the film... And the scale of [the installation] has that similar effect, where our relationship to the birds has changed. Because normally when you're on the plaza, you see little birds and you're this giant thing. Here it's the opposite: You're the small thing in relationship to the giant birds."



### #9 - VORTEX (COMING SOON)

*Vortex (COMING SOON)*

Jessica Angel

2018 - 2021 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

Placed in close proximity to its associated 18,000-square-foot immersive installation, *Vortex* is a physical and virtual gateway and complementary experience to artist Jessica Angel's upcoming *Voxel Bridge* artwork. Congratulations on finding the secret entry! Now jump in and see what lies ahead . . .



### #10 - SHOULD I BE WORRIED - JUSTIN LANGLOIS

*Should I Be Worried*

Justin Langlois

2017

This public artwork was produced by local artist Justin Langlois as part of the City of Vancouver's first Artist-in-Residence program. Since mid-2016, Justin has been working with the Sustainability Group, learning about the various initiatives and themes that shape the Greenest City Action Plan and contributing to ideas and opportunities for greater engagement. The work produced aims to initiate an ongoing dialogue about social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Now that you know the concept behind this work, what does *Should I Be Worried* mean to you in the context of environmental sustainability?



## #11 - VOXEL BRIDGE (COMING SOON)

***Voxel Bridge***  
**Jessica Angel**  
**2018 - 2021 Vancouver Biennale Exhibition**

*Voxel Bridge* is an 18,000-square-foot immersive installation by New York-based, Colombian artist Jessica Angel. The artwork explores how public space can be constructed and utilized in both digital and physical realities. Using adhesive vinyl and Augmented Reality technology, Angel will transform the Cambie Street Bridge and draw visual parallels between blockchain technology and the structural integrity of the underpass in front of the Southeast False Creek Neighborhood Energy Utility (NEU). This installation will become a point of contact and dialogue around different forms of knowledge.

The ideas that inspired this artwork were discussed at #ArtProject2020, an art and technology expo held from November 11 to 15, 2020. The expo was the first of many activations based on this installation. *Voxel Bridge* will be a gathering hub for innovators in the fields of sustainability, Augmented Reality, and digital art in public space. Vancouver Biennale invites all artists, creators, and experience designers whose ethos is aligned with the concepts of experimentation, community, integration, and decentralization to activate the space.



## #10 - FINISH - THE STOP

Congratulations! You've arrived at the final stop, *The Stop*! If you didn't take a photo or video at the beginning of this ride, how about a triumphant selfie right now?

Ready to treat yourself? There are plenty of options nearby. Head up to 2nd Ave at Quebec for Earnest Ice Cream (coffee toffee is a Biennale staff favourite), or grab a juice from Glory Juice Co. There are also many restaurants along West 2nd if you're feeling like something a bit more substantial!

Thank you for riding with us, and don't forget to tag your social-media photos with #VanBiennale!