

 CYCLING

BIKING THE BLOCKCHAIN

By Vancouver Biennale

18 KM
1 - 2 HOURS

ABOUT THE TOUR

Have you cycled the pathway under the south end of the Cambie Bridge? If you've visited since August 10, 2021 when the art installation was launched, you will have noticed some creative activity in this space!

The installation is called Voxel Bridge and is by artist Jessica Angel, you can learn lots more about it on this ride!

If you've heard the words "blockchain" or "augmented reality" in the news lately and have not understood their meanings, ride on to explore and learn more. Download the QR code from the onsite signage, and activate the free app to fully experience the intersection of art and technology.

ROUTE STOPS

1	VOXEL BRIDGE - JESSICA ANGEL	South End Cambie Bridge
2	GIANTS - OSGEMEOS	1415 Johnston St.
3	BLANKETING THE CITY PART I - DEBRA SPARROW	Under Granville Bridge (South)
4	BURRARD BRIDGE BANNERS	Burrard Bridge
5	SPINNING CHANDELIER - RODNEY GRAHAM	Under Granville Bridge (North)
6	THE PROUD YOUTH - CHEN WENLING	South end of Drake St. (on Seawall)
7	TRANS AM TOTEM - MARCUS BOWCOTT	1283 Quebec St.
8	REMEMBER HOGAN'S ALLEY - EJIWA "EDGE" EBENEBE	258 Union St.
9	PARK - MARKO SIMCIC	Strathcona Park (North Side)
10	MONUMENT FOR EAST VANCOUVER - KEN LUM	2173 Clark Dr.
11	REFINED - JILL ANHOLT	Manitoba Plaza
12	VORTEX - JESSICA ANGEL	Hinge Park





#1 - VOXEL BRIDGE - JESSICA ANGEL

Voxel Bridge
Jessica Angel
Spring 2021 - 2023

Voxel Bridge is an 19,000-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. *Voxel Bridge* is a groundbreaking event in Contemporary Art, fusing the real world under the Cambie Bridge with the most advanced Augmented Reality and blockchain technologies.

Voxel Bridge isn't a quick pit stop! To fully experience this digital reality, we suggest you plan to stop for 10-15 minutes, longer if you have the time, and make plans to return again...and again.



#2 - GIANTS - OSGEMEOS

Giants
OSGEMEOS: Gustavo and Otávio Pandolfo
2014 - 2016 Vancouver Biennale

"Every city needs art, and art has to be in the middle of the people."
- OSGEMEOS

The Vancouver Biennale transformed a Granville Island industrial landmark into a gigantic work of public art. OSGEMEOS created *Giants*, a 360-degree, 21.3-metre- (70-foot-) tall mural, the biggest public mural of their career and their public artwork debut in Canada. The mural, which measures a colourful 2,183 square meters (23,500 square feet), was created on the six gigantic silos that are part of the Ocean Cement manufacturing and distribution plant on Vancouver's Granville Island, alongside the world-famous Public Market and boat docks that attract 10.5 million visitors per year.

Photo Challenge: Take a selfie with the Giants (with your best gigantic smile, of course!) and tag #VanBiennale in your post or story!



#3 - BLANKETING THE CITY PART I - DEBRA SPARROW

Blanketing The City Part I - The Pillars of the Granville Street Bridge
Debra Sparrow
2018

Adorning the Granville Bridge pillars is the 2018 mural by First Nations artist Debra Sparrow that was part of the *Blanketing The City* Mural project in collaboration with the Vancouver Mural Festival.

“Artist Debra Sparrow and Vancouver Mural Festival celebrate the resurgence of Coast Salish weaving in profoundly visible, public and accessible spaces across the city by transforming Coast Salish textile patterns into giant murals that will also incorporate contemporary design elements. This series is rooted in an emerging practice of cultural reclamation of the visual spaces of Vancouver for the Coast Salish people and is part of a process of creating new channels of transmission of indigenous knowledge across generations, cultures and communities.

This project arose from conversations with Debra Sparrow, who challenged the Vancouver Mural Festival to find more foundational ways to observe cultural protocol and acknowledge the visual culture of the people who have thrived in these lands for thousands of years and continue to create and evolve their culture on these unceded territories.”



#4 - BURRARD BRIDGE BANNERS

In 1958, the Community Arts Council of Vancouver (CACV) created and funded an original series of street banners to celebrate the First International Festival held at the Orpheum Theatre.

Since that time, the banners have become a familiar sight on Vancouver’s streets. The City of Vancouver allows local business associations, non-profit groups, charitable organizations, and special events organizations to apply to install street banners and flags.

Business Improvement Association (BIA) banners are permanent installations in local BIA and Neighbourhood Societies use the banners to enhance their local streetscapes.



#5 - SPINNING CHANDELIER - RODNEY GRAHAM

Spinning Chandelier
Rodney Graham
2014

Commissioned by Westbank, *Spinning Chandelier* by Vancouver artist Rodney Graham is a kinetic sculpture that transforms the vast, cathedral-like spaces under the Granville Bridge.

Constructed of stainless steel with 602 polyurethane crystals, Graham's sculpture is based on from his 2005 35-film loop installation entitled *Torqued Chandelier Release*, in which a crystal chandelier whirls rapidly as its supporting cable is unwound. The film was originally inspired by Sir Isaac Newton's bucket experiment, exploring the laws of rotational motion.

Spinning Chandelier spins three times daily: 12pm (noon), 4 pm, 9 pm. If you're not around to watch the sculpture in action, check out the video above.



#6 - THE PROUD YOUTH - CHEN WENLING

The Proud Youth
Chen Wenling
2018-2021 Biennale Exhibition

The Proud Youth is a representative artwork in Chen Wenling's Red Memories series. It is named after a popular Wuxia (Martial Heroes) novel called *The Smiling, Proud Wanderer* (Xiao Ao Jiang Hu 笑傲江湖), which in Chinese literally means "to live a carefree life in a mundane world of strife."

Not only does the bright red colour signify auspiciousness in Chinese tradition, but this colour is also a testament to the artist's fiery attitude toward life. The red figure, naked and free, fully reveals his honesty and fearlessness. Creating a direct communication between man and nature, this simple and truthful artwork initiates a sincere conversation between people and society. The cheeky expression and arresting pose are a celebratory call for viewers to embrace their inner child.

Photo challenge: Use the mirrored base to show us your best "*Proud Youth*" grin!

SUNZEN ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: Want to see more from Chen Wenling? Featuring small to mid-size sculptures, along with sketches, paintings and photography, an exhibition at Sunzen Art Gallery (420 Howe St.) will showcase a diverse range of works, while discussing important issues the artist has investigated throughout his artistic career.

The exhibition will run from JULY 29 to SEPTEMBER 22, 2021.



#7 - TRANS AM TOTEM - MARCUS BOWCOTT

Trans Am Totem
Marcus Bowcott + Helene Aspinall
2014 - 2016 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

Thanks to a generous donation from Vancouver philanthropists Chip and Shannon Wilson, this artwork, a legacy of the 2014-2016 Vancouver Biennale exhibition, was added to the City of Vancouver's public art collection in 2019.

North Vancouver-based artists Marcus Bowcott and Helene Aspinall created *Trans Am Totem* as a site specific installation. This 10-meter-high (33-foot), 11,340-kilogram (25,000-pound) sculpture, located at Quebec Street and Milross Avenue, was composed of five real scrap cars stacked upon an old growth cedar tree. The artwork was created to consider our consumer "out with the old, in with the new" culture in relation to the site, its history, and Vancouver's evolving identity.

On August 15-16, the City of Vancouver deinstalled the sculpture removing it to be refurbished and relocated to a 'yet to be determined' location by Summer 2022.



#8 - REMEMBER HOGAN'S ALLEY - EJIWA "EDGE" EBENEBE

Remember Hogan's Alley
Ejiwa "Edge" Ebenebe
2019

In partnership with Hogan's Alley Society, BC Housing and the PHS Society, this artwork was commissioned through the City's Hogan Alley Artist Call 2019. In February 2019, the City invited proposals for a temporary painted mural or digital printed artwork to be located in Hogan's Alley.

Artist Statement: "Learning that a vibrant community of Black Canadians was not only tragically erased, but that their memory is nearly forgotten, comes as a harsh shock. But focusing only on the pain of this tragedy isn't telling the complete story. Instead, I've become driven by how strongly the voices of triumph and hope still ring out from underneath the loss. With this piece I wish to highlight a vibrant, joyful perspective: one of hope and a future built from past remnants.

Motifs of music and laughter emerge throughout the stories and memories I have encountered. The passion for rebuilding, of bringing back to Vancouver what has been lost, is particularly moving. This tribute explores growth and rebirth - our youth rediscovering their roots and communing with their forebears through whatever means available.

Hogan's Alley is a precious piece of history in dire need of remembrance and revival. With this project I hope to do justice to the memories of our predecessors, as well as respect the wishes of those who strive to preserve our history."



#9 - PARK - MARKO SIMCIC

Park
Marko Simcic
2008

Park consists of two mobile, stainless steel sculptural objects, each approximately the size and weight of a small automobile. The sculptures occupy curb-lane parking spots and are relocated from time to time to various neighbourhoods throughout the city. Whether adjacent to public sites such as schools or parks, commercial properties, or permitted to occupy residential parking through their “adoption” by neighbourhood residents, *Park* tracks the many forms by which the street, our most symbolic public space, is regulated.

Previously, the two sculptures were located on the north and south sides of MacLean Park in the Strathcona neighbourhood. Currently, they are on the north side of Strathcona Park, near the intersection with Campbell Avenue.



#10 - MONUMENT FOR EAST VANCOUVER - KEN LUM

Monument for East Vancouver
Ken Lum
2010

Artist Statement: “*Monument For East Vancouver* develops from a graffiti symbol that has circulated for several decades in East Vancouver. It is a symbol that has circulated in largely provisional terms. My idea was to formalize the symbol through scale and permanence. Although its precise origins are not known, the symbol does date back to at least the late 1940s (according to the memory of some senior citizens), which is the beginning of the post 2nd World War period. Its roots may be linked to the Catholic inscription of East Vancouver culture at that time, home as it was to many Italians, Greeks and Eastern Europeans.

Over the years, the symbol has been adopted as an emblem for East Vancouver as a whole, but its appearance has generally been tentative rather than overt. The lack of overtness is, I feel, symptomatic of the underlying meanings that the symbol expresses. These meanings have to do with problems of injustice, inequality, subjugation and the trauma of poverty and acculturation, particularly as it relates to immigrant life. My proposal is for a site that sits on a visually messy and peripheral site in East Vancouver. The East Vancouver symbol is rendered as a 57-foot sculpture that lights up after dark, the word East and Van encircled by a cross delineation that seems to float all on its own. The sculpture faces westward towards downtown, towards the centre. It is an expression of hope and defiance.”



#11 - REFINED - JILL ANHOLT

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!



#12 - VORTEX - JESSICA ANGEL

Vortex
Jessica Angel (b. 1980, Colombia)
Spring 2021 - 2023

Placed in close proximity to its associated 19,000 square-foot immersive installation, *Vortex* is a physical and virtual gateway and complementary experience to the *Voxel Bridge* artwork.

Vortex is an introductory portal to the digital wonderland of *Voxel Bridge*, Jessica Angel's massive art installation located under the south end of the Cambie Bridge. Watch the *Voxel Bridge* concept video here using Augmented Reality (AR), which will give you a sneak peek into the groundbreaking interactive AR experience that will immerse you into the world of blockchain technology.

Congratulations on finding the secret entry! Now jump in and see what lies ahead...

Did you enjoy the BIKING THE BLOCKCHAIN route and have fun exploring public art with us?

Was it a cool experience in the alternate reality of VOXEL BRIDGE? Be sure to spread the word with family and friends and share your experience on social media by tagging us (#VanBiennale) - you may get posted on our website.