



VIEWPOINT VANCOUVER WALK

By Vancouver Biennale + Gordon Price

5 KM | 6,250 - 7,500 STEPS
1 - 1.5 HOURS

ABOUT THE TOUR

Welcome to the VIEWPOINT VANCOUVER WALK. This self-guided tour was curated by Gordon Price, of Viewpoint Vancouver, and will bring you through the West End to Yaletown along the seawall, then back along Davie Street. At a few of the points along the way, Gordon has some fun tidbits of information so be sure to watch the linked videos!

Share any photos you take on social media with #VanBiennale

ROUTE STOPS

1	A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER - YUE MINJUN	1800 Morton Ave.
2	ENGAGEMENT - DENNIS OPPENHEIM	Sunset Beach Park
3	VANCOUVER AIDS MEMORIAL	Seawall between Nicole and Broughton St.
4	THE PROUD YOUTH - CHEN WENLING	Seawall at South End of Drake St.
5	WEST END HIGH RISES	1770 Davie St.





#1 - A-MAZE-ING LAUGHTER

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.

Having been nominated in the Canadian Institute of Planners' "Great Places in Canada Contest" in 2013, it was the only work of art in the nation to receive a nomination. This beloved installation helped the West End neighbourhood win the 2015 "Great Place in Canada - Great Neighbourhood" Award.

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.

WATCH THE VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eb9O6u29Rpk>



#7 - ENAGEMENT - DENNIS OPPENHEIM

Engagement

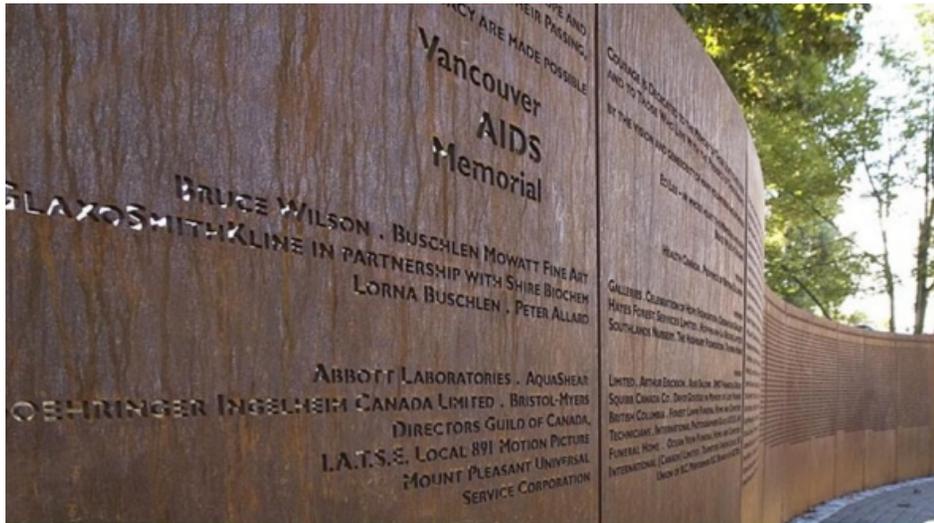
Dennis Oppenheim

2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale exhibition

Having constructed several large-scale sculptural works throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Oppenheim (1938-2011) remains one of the world's most influential and respected artists. This work is a Legacy Artwork of the 2005 - 2007 Vancouver Biennale who awarded Oppenheim a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007. The initial installation of this artwork in 2005 coincided with same-sex marriage debates taking place in Canada.

Engagement is one of three versions that artist Dennis Oppenheim produced referencing the traditional engagement rings. In a "Pop Art" form where everyday domestic objects are taken out of their domestic environment and reconceptualized as monumental sculptures, this version of *Engagement* rises nearly 30 feet. Where one would expect to find diamonds, there are two translucent houses of plexiglass and aluminum, which are illuminated and precariously tilted away from each other.

As a commentary on the precarious balances in marriage, that of the romantic, traditional, economic and the illusions inherent in the institution, the meaning of *Engagement* is intentionally open-ended. Oppenheim often declined to interpret or explain his work, leaving the interpretation to the viewer.



#2 - VANCOUVER AIDS MEMORIAL

Vancouver AIDS Memorial
Bruce Wilson
2004

The ribbon of steel is composed of 20 steel panels anchored to concrete piers and is engraved with the names of nearly 800 people from BC who have died of AIDS. The panels have a natural rust-oxidized finish and wind down the slope from the parking lot at Sunset Beach towards English Bay. The overall length may ultimately be as much as 60 feet.

The names are inscribed beneath the phrase, "With you a part of me hath passed away," from poet/philosopher George Santayana.



#3 - 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!



#8 - WEST END HIGH-RISES AND FINISH

You're around some of the West End's earliest high-rises, watch the video from Gordon Price to learn a bit about them.

At 1770 Davie St, you'll see the recently completed mural by Douglas Coupland.

Did you know: In 1957, owners could expect to pay between \$25,500 to \$32,000 for suites which had 5 or 6 rooms - Prices have skyrocketed in the past 60 years!

WATCH THE VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bv6h-3EGXyI>

This concludes the VIEWPOINT VANCOUVER WALK, did you enjoy it? Be sure to spread the word and share your experience on social media by tagging us (#VanBiennale).

Gordon has some closing words in the video below! Thanks for riding with us.

WATCH THE VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OkkRJ9MbMM>