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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)  
Date: 11/1/2021 8:46:12 AM  
Subject: [Upcoming information bulletin: We Are Here, Live information bulletin \(Nov 1, 2021\)](#)

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin on November 1, 2021 announcing *Platforms: We Are Here, Live*, and the November artists and their works. Please keep this information bulletin embargoed until it goes live from the City media email account at approximately 10:00 AM on November 1.

Social media posts highlighting the commissioned authors and works will be going up over the coming weeks and I encourage you to share them on your channels.

Best,  
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

**City of Vancouver**  
**News release**  
**November 1, 2021**

## ***Platforms: We Are Here, Live* brings 23 new temporary public art works to Vancouver streets**

Throughout November, residents and visitors in Vancouver can view the first of 23 new public art installations presented on seven platforms across Vancouver, including banners at Vancouver Public Library's Central Branch and the glass wall at City Centre Canada Line Station. The pieces were commissioned as part of the City of Vancouver's public art program *Platforms: We Are Here, Live*.

This innovative public art initiative will run until November 2022, with new artworks rolling out each month. Depending on the platform a piece is presented on, it will remain up for one month to a year. The commissioned works present strong ideas that reflect the complexities and anxiety surrounding the pandemic and encourage critical dialogue and engagement.

COVID-19 has magnified and deepened all social, health, and economic inequities of our society, and art making is an important way to respond creatively to this moment. Each Vancouver-based and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), sɡwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) artist was

selected because they were grappling with the issues highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **November's Platforms: *We Are Here, Live* public artworks**

- **Tafui, *Out of Many*, presented on Vancouver Public Library Banners**  
*Out of Many* is inspired by the similarities of racialized and Indigenous cultures throughout the globe and the idea that 'we belong to each other.' Tafui's practice is informed by the idea that through the understanding of our histories and shared experiences we become united, as people, as cultures and to the earth.
  
- **Romane Bladou, *All That We Cannot Grasp*, presented on šxʷł̓exən Xwtl'a7shn Lightbox**  
*All That We Cannot Grasp* is about reflection, projection and movement. The work evokes notions of uncertainty and groundlessness: it is about trying to find rest in the tumult but always moving with it. It is an invitation to embrace the uncertain state we find ourselves in and to try to situate ourselves in this blur and confusion.
  
- **Dona Nabata, *Westside Palimpsest*, presented on the billboard at Arbutus and 12<sup>th</sup>**  
*Westside Palimpsest* continues Nabata's interest in illustrating the Asian experience in Canada. The bust of an Asian woman is front and centre in the piece. Within the demographic of the west side of Vancouver, she is not out of place, but in an art context, she is unusual. Nabata hopes the Vancouver public will see themselves reflected in the piece by enabling them to identify with the central figure, or by finding kinship with other characters.
  
- **Scott Billings, *between you and me; the gap that parts us today, will still have zero thickness tomorrow; between you and me* presented on City Centre Canada Line Station windows**  
Billings' work reflects on the ebbs, flows and waves of the pandemic and its social impacts. Stability follows tragedy; quietude follows anxiety. Billings invites the viewer to take a step back, so we may all move forward as one, so the chaos may appear less chaotic.

[Visit our website for artist bios](#), monthly announcements of artworks, and for the full list of platforms.

The City's Public Art Program commissions artworks and supports critical artistic exploration that reflect on the complexities of place, publics, and culture. The program prioritizes artist-centred approaches and respectful relations in pursuit of the vision of a city where the work of artists is integrated into daily life. To learn more about how the City supports contemporary art for public spaces throughout Vancouver [visit our website](#).