

Canada 150+ Indigenous Artist Call 2017

for murals and printed artwork

As a city situated on the unceded and ancestral homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, and as a City of Reconciliation, a goal of Canada 150+ is for Vancouver to mark the national milestone with the theme of strengthening our relations among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians and to forge a common future between all Vancouverites.

To contribute to a stimulating public realm and celebrate the creativity of Indigenous peoples in Vancouver, the City of Vancouver invited proposals for a series of murals and printed artwork from Indigenous artists who have a connection to Vancouver. The featured artists and their installed work were recommended by a panel of Indigenous artists.

1 TIME IMMEMORIAL Ryan McKenna

The collection of six images is representative of Indigenous people from surrounding and central Vancouver nations such as Musqueam, Squamish and Haida, that reside within the city. It is important for Canadians, especially now, to contemplate the idea of

Canada's Aboriginal population and their historical relationship with the land. It is my intention that this work provokes this topic and creates further conversation about First Nations people as they carry on tradition and simultaneously move towards the future of Canada.

2 HEARTBEAT Jay Havens

"Heartbeat" is a response to two seminal moments in Canadian history. The first is the iconic speech given by Chief Dan George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation on July 1, 1967 (the Canadian Centennial). It seems necessary that we look at this speech for the Canada 150+ and reflect on its poignant statements. The second inspiration for this work is a mural commissioned by the Canadian Museum of Civilization completed in 1978 titled "The Indian in Transition" by Daphne Odjig, a Woodland artist and long-time BC resident.

3 BRINGING LIGHT TO DARKNESS LEAD ARISTS: Larissa Healy (Gurl 23), Shadae Rose J. (Yetta, Issamo), YOUTH: Mathew Nordlie, Shanie Sandovel-Cross (FlowerGirl), Demet

YOUTH: Mathew Nordlie, Shanie Sandovel-Cross (FlowerGirl), Demetrus Paul, Michele Jubilee, Davey-Hatcher, Courtney Loyer-Lawrence, Manual Strain, CONTRIBUTORS: Zee Kwakwee Baker, Joseph Paul

A fentanyl crisis awareness mural, this mural came to life through the participation of many artists in the community. The artwork gives space for healing and shares our artwork beyond Indigenous communities. The mural honours the role of culture in saving multi-generational lives across

Turtle Island (North America). It acknowledges the unceded Coast Salish Territories that the Downtown Eastside community sits upon, a host to first peoples across Canada.

"One Heart One Mind"
"Walk in Beauty"

4 NEKÚ NETSÍ KEZHI Krystle Coughlin

Nekú netsí kezhi (our home and Native land) is a photomontage of images taken in the City of Vancouver, representing simplified northern First Nations formline design elements and beads. The image is an abstraction with interconnecting forms. The image is symbolic of the complications of reconciliation – the image does not create a complete form. The abstract nature is also meant to represent a

celebration. Canada Day has always been a day to celebrate, as my mother was born on the centennial in Vancouver. "Nekú netsí kezhi" translates to "our home and native land" in Northern Tutchone language – this is the language of my maternal grandmother. This part of the Canadian anthem is important as it recognizes the duality of home and land ownership.

5 SPIRITS OF THE REALMS Haisla Collins, Jerry Whitehead, Sharifah Marsden, Mehren Razmpoosh, Richard Shorty, Vanessa Walterson

"Spirits of the Realms" is a mural about indigenous cultures and stories of First Peoples across Canada. The background colours of black, white, yellow and red represent the four directions of the medicine wheel and the three realms (earth, sky and sea) of the peoples who live along the Northwest Coast. There are other stories and cultural elements represented including: Raven, the trickster who frees the light, the

giants of the sky realm, two sisters who brought peace, and a sweat lodge, pow wow dancers, our missing sisters, eagles, Thunderbird, trees, landscape and much more. The work also incorporates contemporary artistic elements, form-line and beading patterns, and braids. This mural is meant to honour all the First Peoples of Canada, their cultures, stories, and understandings.

6 SEA TO SKY Kelly Cannell

"Sea to Sky" represents all of what
Canada has to offer in terms of natural
landscapes, abounding wildlife and
rich cultural diversity. It reminds us
of the connections present between
the earth, all plants and animals and
ourselves. We are not alone and
separate from nature, but an integral
part of it. Located on traditional Coast
Salish territory the artwork represents

a land where our ancestors lived and gained their livelihoods. They depended on the waterways for food and travel and on the forests for shelter. The imagery shows Vancouver's surroundings in the heart of the city, while acknowledging the four directions (north, east, south, west).

vancouver.ca/murals





