

me smile. I try to bring some iconic characters and happiness to my art so that people don't see our culture as too serious."

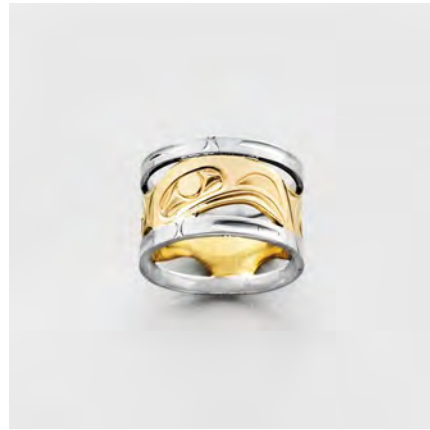
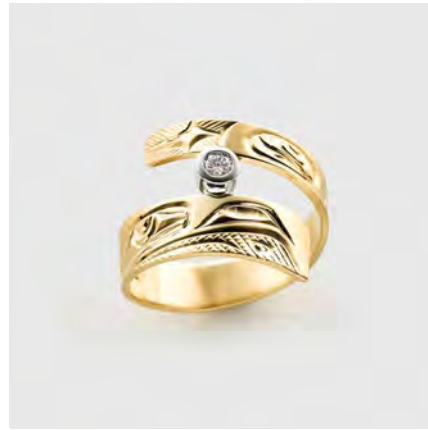
Across all mediums, Hunt's art reflects a wholistic worldview that often brings together cultures beyond her own.

"The general concept of our belief system is we're all a part of one world. It's really important to show balance in the world: the significance of the animal world but also the trees and the water. Take the salmon, for example: The salmon is connected with the bear who eats the salmon in the river. But that salmon and bear are also part of the cedar tree by the river. They're all connected, and we're all connected to that. That's a vital part of the work that I do: to show the balance of the world as a whole and as a wholistic being."

Hunt is also involved in encouraging the next generation of artists. She teaches, and she is on the board of directors for her local cultural centre. She has been heavily involved with the BC Arts Council. During the summers, she works with youth artists in the playground in Alert Bay, where the students create murals. "I was amazed by these young children who are brought up with this art but are so creative with it—they see an energy there that is really quite wonderful."

Going forward, Hunt aims to incorporate more of her language into the art she creates. "It's a beautiful language. My goal is to just explore. It's kind of a mass rendering of our language to be out in the big world."

Integrating the living language of her people into her art is another step in Corrine Hunt's broader goal of showing her modern culture to the world. "The most important thing for me is the vitality of who the Kwakwaka'wakw people are. It's a living, breathing culture. There's been no break in what we know and what we do. Our songs are alive and we are alive in this world today. That's probably the most important thing to me in the platform I have as an artist. It's for people not to see us as a stereotype—as a sad world that is bygone. Our culture and people are alive today in the youngsters who grow up in these villages."

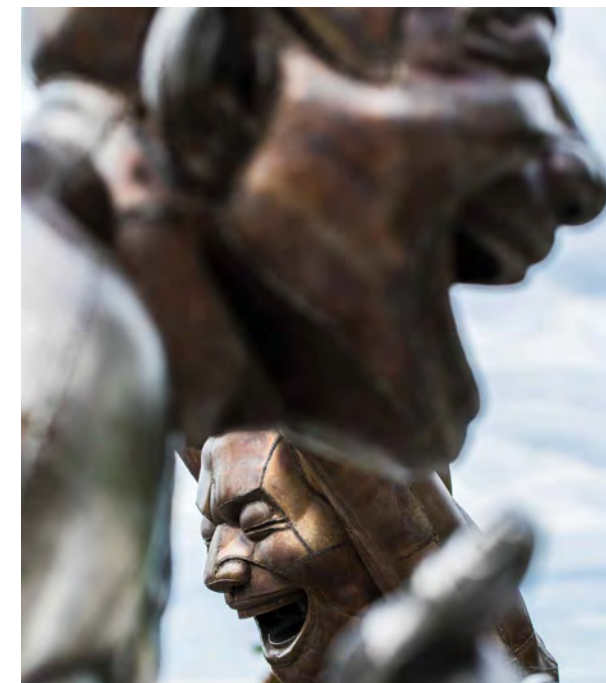


PHOTOS: COASTAL PEOPLES FINE ARTS GALLERY

# LARGER THAN LIFE

BY KATE BARKER AND SHERI RADFORD

PHOTOS: RIGHT: JULIADORIAN / STOCK.ADOBE.COM | BOTTOM RIGHT: DESTINATION BC / NELSON MOUILLIC



## Vancouver: Laughing It Up

The Vancouver Biennale has been bringing oversized works of outdoor art to the city since 2005. Probably the most beloved—and certainly the most photographed—is “A-maze-ing Laughter” by Chinese artist Yue Minjun. Frequently referred to as “the laughing men,” this selfie-friendly piece near English Bay Beach features a circle of 14 larger-than-life bronze figures. Each one is based on the artist's own laughing face. Though the playful statues were intended to be a temporary attraction, on loan to the Vancouver Biennale for just a few years, locals loved them so much that in 2012 Chip Wilson (of Lululemon fame) and his wife, Shannon, donated \$1.5 million to allow the statues to make their permanent home on the West Coast.—S.R.

*The landscapes between the Pacific Ocean and the Canadian Rockies are awe-inspiring, to say the least. But the towns and cities along the way have impressive art scenes, including a selection of public art to decorate the streets and bring light and laughter to all who view it. Here are some of our favourite public art pieces to see in BC and Alberta.*



**Kamloops: Marvellous Murals**

What started in 2010 as a strategy to reduce graffiti and beautify downtown Kamloops has turned into a popular tourist attraction in its own right. The Back-Alley Art Gallery's mural project features an eclectic mix of more than 30 full-scale murals depicting everything from a fantasy garden and a train robbery to a Tuscan villa and a smiling Marilyn Monroe, and more murals are added on an ongoing basis. A leisurely self-guided tour of the artists' creations is the perfect way to spend a sunny summer's afternoon.—S.R.



PHOTOS: TOURISM KAMLOOPS / DYLAN SHERRARD



**Jasper: Siblings Standing Tall**

The Raven Totem Pole, which overlooked Jasper's railyards for 94 years, was removed in 2009 because of structural damage and repatriated to Haida Gwaii. In 2011, in an event that brought together more than 15 regional Indigenous communities, the Two Brothers Totem Pole was raised, and it now stands tall over the train station. Carved by brothers Jaalen and Gwaai Edenshaw, the pole tells of two brothers who journey from the West Coast islands of Haida Gwaii to the Rocky Mountains. An illustrated children's book explores the siblings' story and the connections between landlocked Jasper National Park and coastal Haida Gwaii.—K.B.



**Calgary: BUMP in the City**

Calgary is home to over 1,300 works of public art, a combination of large commissioned pieces, seasonal popups, and mural projects. In an effort to brighten public spaces with artwork that's accessible to everyone, the Beltline Urban Mural Project (BUMP) began in 2017. Artists from across the country and around the world have contributed, and the annual summer festival highlights the creativity in the Beltline neighbourhood and beyond. Last year, BUMP introduced the world's tallest mural, painted by German graffiti artist DAIM. It overlooks the eastern side of the city. Stretching 95 metres (just over 310 ft) tall, the mural took 130 litres of primer, 207 litres of base coat, and 543 cans of spray paint to complete.—K.B.

PHOTOS: TOP LEFT: TOURISM JASPER | BOTTOM: BUMP / MIRKO REISSER

