



Canada's First Public Art Commission by Mexican Artist, Pedro Reyes, Arrives at Vancouver Art Gallery's Offsite

PACE IN SPACE!, a new public art installation by Pedro Reyes seeks to engage Vancouver in play, humour and optimism.

May 5th, 2023, VANCOUVER, BC // Traditional Coast Salish Lands including the Musqueam (xʷməθkʷəyəm), Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw) and Tsleil-Waututh (səllwətaʔ) Nations.

PACE IN SPACE!, the newest Offsite exhibition from the Vancouver Art Gallery features the work of internationally acclaimed Mexican artist, Pedro Reyes. *PACE IN SPACE!* is a project about walking. Inspired by mythology, taxonomy and evolving technologies that seem to have a mind of their own, the sculptures in *PACE IN SPACE!* blur the lines between animal and machine. With humour, Reyes imagines a future where hybrid creatures walk among us.

The installation brings us face to face with a set of creatures that resemble cars with legs, offering us a moment to pause and reflect on our surroundings. Cars belong on the street, but these creatures inhabit the sidewalk, existing alongside other two and four-legged beings.

Installed on a busy downtown thoroughfare amid towering buildings, Reyes' assemblage of oversized and colourful critters poses existential questions to viewers and passers-by. Are they machines, animals or animatronic hybrids? The creatures engage with the public intellectually and physically, illustrating the complex influence of artificial intelligence and machine learning on our everyday lives.

"We are thrilled to present this new work commissioned for Vancouver Art Gallery's Offsite space," states **Vancouver Art Gallery CEO & Director Anthony Kiendl**, "Pedro's reputation as a leading thinker and creator of art in the public sphere and our collective imagination is thought-provoking and compelling. We are thrilled to welcome Pedro back to Vancouver with this outstanding work of art."

PACE IN SPACE! is combined with a series of participatory walking sessions with the audience as an integral part of the work. Like many of Reyes' past projects, *PACE IN SPACE!* integrates participatory strategies that seek to engage the community. Walking sessions will occur throughout the run of the exhibition. Please see the Gallery's [website](#) for details.

Offsite: Pedro Reyes is organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery on behalf of the City of Vancouver Public Art Program and guest curated by Makiko Hara

The exhibition is open to the public from May 5, 2023, through to October 8, 2023.

Offsite is located at 1100 West Georgia Street (between Thurlow and Bute), just west of the Shangri-La Hotel.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Pedro Reyes (Mexico City, 1972) studied architecture but considers himself a sculptor. His works integrate elements of theatre, psychology and activism and take a variety of forms, from penetrable sculptures to puppet productions. Significant works include *Palas por Pistolas* (2007–present), *Sanatorium* (2011), *Disarm* (2013), *pUN: The People's United Nations* (2013) and *Doomocracy* (2016). Reyes was commissioned by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists together with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)—winners of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize—to raise awareness of the growing risk of nuclear conflict.

Reyes held a visiting faculty position at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2016. For his work on disarmament, he received the Luxembourg Peace Prize in 2021. In the last year, Reyes has held three survey exhibitions: *Escultura Social* at the Monterrey Museum of Contemporary Art (MARCO) in Monterrey, Mexico; *Sociatry* at MARTa Herford in Herford, Germany; and *DIRECT ACTION* at SITE Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ABOUT THE GUEST CURATOR

Makiko Hara is an independent curator, lecturer, writer, and art and cultural consultant based in Vancouver. From 2007 to 2013, she was Chief Curator/Deputy Director of Centre A: Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. In addition, she has worked with many local and international visual artists on a variety of large-scale projects as an independent curator, including Scotiabank Nuit Blanche, Toronto (2009);

AIR YONAGO, Tottori Geijyu Art Festival, Yonago, Japan (2014–15); *Fictive Communities Asia*– Koganecho Bazaar, Yokohama, Japan (2014); and *Rock Paper Scissors: Cindy Mochizuki*, Yonago City Museum of Art, Tottori, Japan (2018).

Hara was a Guest Curator of Koganecho Bazaar in 2014, and at Kamloops Art Gallery in 2021. Between 2017 and 2022, Hara served the advisory committee at the International Exchange Center, Akita University of Art, Japan, and organized numerous international exchange programs. Hara co-founded Pacific Crossings, a British Columbia-based curatorial platform, in 2018. Pacific Crossings has initiated and organized numerous conversations, residencies and both online and offline cultural exchanges across the Pacific. Hara received the Alvin Balkind Curator's Prize in 2020.

ABOUT OFFSITE

Offsite is the Vancouver Art Gallery's outdoor public art space located at 1100 West Georgia Street between Thurlow and Bute Streets, west of the Shangri-La Hotel, in downtown Vancouver. Presenting an innovative program of temporary projects, it is a site for local and international contemporary artists to exhibit works related to the surrounding urban context. Featured artists consider the site-specific potential of art within the public realm and respond to the changing social and cultural conditions of our contemporary world. New projects are installed in the spring and fall.



Offsite organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery on behalf of the City of Vancouver Public Art Program. The Gallery recognizes Ian Gillespie, President, Westbank; Ben Yeung, President, Peterson Investment Group; and the residents of the Shangri-La for their support of this space.

Image: Pedro Reyes, *PACE IN SPACE!*, 2023 (model), Photo: Pamela Limón Ross

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ABOUT VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Founded in 1931, the Vancouver Art Gallery is recognized as one of North America's most innovative visual arts institutions. The Gallery's ground-breaking exhibitions, extensive public programs and emphasis on advancing scholarship all focus on historical and contemporary art from British Columbia and around the world. Special attention is given to the accomplishments of Indigenous artists, as well as to those of the Asia Pacific region—through the Institute of Asian Art founded in 2014. The Gallery's exhibitions also explore the impact of images in the larger sphere of visual culture, design and architecture.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is a charitable not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The Vancouver Art Gallery is situated on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and is respectful of the Indigenous stewards of the land it occupies, whose rich cultures are fundamental to artistic life in Vancouver and to the work of the Gallery.

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