



Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery to Feature Artwork by Kai Choufour

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Original artwork proposed by local artist Kai Choufour (pronounced *Kye Shoo-four*) has been selected as the Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery's fifth installation. Located on the west wall of the Youth Empowerment Society building on the 500 Block of Yates Street, the outdoor gallery showcases temporary installations by local artists to add colour and vitality to the area.

Choufour's proposal was one of 11 submissions the City received in response to a juried Call to Artists process for emerging artists and artist teams. His proposal for the annual four-panel 1.2 metre by 2.4 metre artwork will focus on kindness, positivity and openness, featuring beautiful shapes and colours executed with childish grandeur, emphasizing fiction and play.

Kai Choufour is a conceptual artist born in Vancouver and currently living and working in Victoria, BC. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Emily Carr University in 2015. During this time, he co-directed multiple short-term gallery spaces such as TAG Contemporary (Emily Carr student gallery) and has exhibited at various galleries in Vancouver. Recently, Choufour oversaw the installation of his first permanent public artwork titled *Hide and Seek*, a large-scale, steel-plated sculpture in Delta, BC.

Choufour's four-panel artwork will be showcased from August 2017 to August 2018 and he will speak at an opening reception to celebrate and launch the installation. Choufour will receive \$2,000 and a \$250 stipend for shipping the artwork to the location, funded by the Arts, Culture and Events department's operating budget. Installation of the artwork will be provided by the City of Victoria.

The Commercial Alley Art Gallery initiative was launched in 2014 with an installation by Other (a.k.a. Troy Lovegates), followed by artworks by Roy Green, Liz P. Dempsey, and Daniel Ellingsen.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/publicart

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