



Two New Public Art Showcases Coming

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Downtown Victoria has two new outdoor public art showcases going up this summer. Six bus shelters now display art as part of Victoria’s *Commute* exhibition program and the *Commercial Alley Art Gallery*’s eighth installation will arrive in August of 2020.

Since 2018, the *Commute* bus shelter exhibition has provided emerging artists, and artists who don’t see themselves reflected in our current collection, an opportunity to participate in public art and exhibit their artworks in Victoria. The temporary installation is designed to encourage dialogue and new ways of thinking about neighbourhoods and public spaces, inspire local artists, and cultivate future public artists and audiences.

Commute was developed in response to input received during engagement on the City’s Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan, when artists asked for more opportunities to participate and exhibit their art. Artworks were chosen by a Selection Panel.

Featured artists for the 2020 *Commute* display include: Debra Bernier, Jaron Gavilan, Maureen Hourigan, Alex Jensen, Samantha Jensson, Leah Mcinnis, Diego Narvaez, Lou-ann Neel, Esther Parker, Tanya Steinhausen, April Winter and Chin Yuen.

The featured artworks will rotate after four months. The first set will be displayed from June to September 2020 and the second set from September to December 2020.

For more information on the selected artists and artworks, visit: victoria.ca/commute.

The artwork created by local artist Emily Thiessen will be featured as the Commercial Alley Outdoor Art Gallery’s eighth installation this August. 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.

Thiessen’s submission *What If* was selected through a juried Call to Artists for emerging artists and artist teams earlier this year. Her mural-sized comic will treat each of the four 1.2-metre by 2.4-metre plywood pieces as a story panel.

Thiessen has been following the art in Commercial Alley since the beginning in 2014.

“That year I was a second year UVic student and I became totally obsessed with Artist Other’s (Troy Lovegates) street art after seeing it in Commercial Alley. Since then I’ve kept thinking about applying,” said Thiessen. Her work was inspired by the City of Victoria’s seedling distribution program and asks - *What if this dark year is a chance to make things better?* The artwork will be on display from August 2020 to August 2021.

Short-term public art installations enhance Victoria and contribute to its vibrancy and livability. For more information, visit: victoria.ca/publicart

ATTACHMENTS:

- Photo of *Pine Cones* by Jaron Gavilan located at Yates Street between Camosun Street and Fernwood Road.
- Photo of Emily Thiessen in her home studio.

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For More Information:

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