

The Burghers of Vancouver Contemporary Video Installation

This installation, created by artist Adad Hannah and filmmaker Denys Arcand, revisits the concept of Rodin's urban monument *The Burghers of Calais* (1885) by recreating it using present-day models. Three of the six figures from Rodin's work are included in *Rodin: Evolution of a Genius*. The film tells the story of six people hired temporarily by a mysterious patron to enact Rodin's famous sculptural ensemble as a tableau vivant in downtown Vancouver. A nameless poet, an older Korean woman who only speaks in her native language, a fraud artist, a ski bum, a laid-off worker and an ex-junkie meet every day, don their costumes, assume their roles on the square in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery, and then go home at the end of the day. They each take the pose of one of the six figures making up the Rodin sculpture and recount what led them to accept this work and how they are experiencing this remarkable project, which seems to take place without any notice from passers-by.



Denys Arcand (Canadian, born 1941) and Adad Hannah (American, New York, born 1971), *The Burghers of Vancouver*, 2014, video installation, 6 HD videos. Produced with support from the Musée Rodin, Paris and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, Canada. Courtesy of Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain, Montreal, and Equinox Gallery, Vancouver.

The Burghers of Vancouver will be installed in VMFA's Lewis Focus Gallery throughout the exhibition.

About the Artists

Adad Hannah was born in New York in 1971. He spent his childhood in Israel and England, and now divides his time between Montreal and Vancouver. Hannah is interested in the way the body occupies space, in the concept of the tableau vivant and, more generally, in the relationship between photography, video, sculpture and performance. He has been commissioned to produce works for museums around the world and has received a number of honours, including the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award of the Canada Council for the Arts. His art features in museum collections in Canada, Mexico, Korea and the United States. Adad Hannah is represented by Pierre-François Ouellette art contemporain in Montreal and by Equinox Gallery in Vancouver.

Denys Arcand was born in Deschambault-Grondines, Quebec, in 1941. To date he has directed 23 feature films, including *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986), *Jesus of Montreal* (1989), *The Barbarian Invasions* (2003), *Days of Darkness* (2007) and *An Eye for Beauty* (2014), which have earned him over 100 prestigious international honors, among them nominations and awards, as well as inclusion in competitions, at the Festival de Cannes, Oscars, Césars, and the Toronto International Film Festival. In addition to his career as a director, screenwriter, producer and actor, Denys Arcand is an art lover and a member of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts' International Art Acquisition Committee.

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