

# A condo room with an artful view

**Condo trends.** More developers are unveiling public art in hopes of making inroads into the community

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Toronto leads the way with an emerging trend in condo development: the commissioning of public art. It was a busy spring with a raft of new art unveilings around town, with condo developers aiming to engage the community and leave their mark.

One such installation resides at the Edition/Richmond condominiums. The builder has converted an old transmission mechanic's shop with 18-foot-high ceilings and glass rollup doors into a photographic gallery featuring works by contemporary photographer Graham Powell. It is listed as part of the popular ScotiaBank Contact photo festival running this month.

Adam Ochshorn of Curated Properties says that "Because we're smack-dab in Queen West close to the Ossington strip, we decided why not embrace the art culture that's been in Queen West since the '60s



## Eye on the artistic

Toronto's University Avenue was shut down on a Saturday afternoon in May for the

unveiling of a new Zhang Huan sculpture at the Shangri-La hotel and condominium development.

Created by China's most influential contemporary artist, the elegant objet d'art is called Rising. The polished stainless-

steel sculpture is comprised of countless "peace pigeons" surrounding a tree trunk and branches.

and '70s?"

Photographer Powell shot local scenes from different vantage points throughout the neighbourhood that are currently on exhibit at the gallery in the form of substantial, four-by-eight-foot black-and-white prints.

And at another public art dedication, Ward 20 councillor Adam Vaughan was on hand in May for the unveiling of a 1,400-pound sculpture entitled Thing's End, by internationally renowned local artist James Carl. The composition adorns the entrance to the Festival Tower condominiums, gateway to the cultural corridor at King and John streets.

Official ceremonies were also recently held to mark the



The WaterParkCity sculpture DUNCAN MCALLISTER

dedication of a Vito Acconci architectural installation unveiled at WaterParkCity in the historic Fort York neighbourhood. Acconci led attendees on

a walking tour of the eye-catching installation.

Lanterra's CEO Barry Fenton thinks that more developers should concentrate on public

art.

"As you can see from what we've accomplished here, it's really added a lot of value and prestige to the building. Really, public art is a big part of the unit. Everyone thinks that when they buy the unit, they're buying 500 square feet and that's the end of it. The truth of it is, their condo starts from when they enter the building to when they get up into the unit."

Public Art Management president Karen Mills says that the sculpture was extremely complex and difficult to build. Fashioned from thin, painted galvanized steel plate, the intricate work of art was completely hand-wrought and twists and turns around the entire building.



Artist Vito Acconci DUNCAN MCALLISTER