



Six Star Magazine: The Magazine for Canadian Subaru Owners, Spring 2015, "Art in the Spotlight and in the Sunlight," by Katherine Yamashita, 35.



Art can be found on more than the walls of galleries and museums these days. You might be surprised at the wild and inspiring public art that you encounter as you find yourself in various cities and towns across Canada. Here's just a small sampling of the creativity on display travelling from east to west...

**1 | THE WAY THINGS ARE: GOT DRUNK, FELL DOWN AND FOUNTAIN — HALIFAX, NS**

Chris Hanson and Hendrika Sonnenberg are the artists responsible for three drunken lampposts on the boardwalk at Halifax's waterfront. Humourously named "Got Drunk, Fell Down" and "Fountain," this trio of street lamps creates curious and striking silhouettes against the sea and skyline. One lamp, obviously more than a little tipsy, is looked over by a stern companion lamp. In the background, another lamppost seems to "lose its backbone." This collection of sculptures is part of a larger series, "The Way Things Are," and they have also been displayed at Nuit Blanche in Toronto. They can now be found on South Battery Pier, near Bishop's Landing in Halifax.

**2 | MEMORIA ADDRESS  
FREDERICTON, NB**

Crafted from blue and green granite, Stephen Cruise's Memoria Address is a stylized forest dwarfed by a giant pinecone. The artist adds a touch of whimsy to this forest in the middle of the city, as well as much symbolism and a nod to the past. The pinecone is a Balsam Fir, the provincial tree of New Brunswick, and the 228 trees represent the years since Fredericton was named the capital. The trees are organized to represent the shape of St. John's River some 10,000 years ago. The benches are a nod to the First Nations Peoples who were the first inhabitants, and also to historical Officers' Quarters. You can visit this miniature forest on Queen Street, between the Playhouse and the Convention Centre in Fredericton.



Photo: Liz Wreford Taylor

### 3 | HAVRE — MONTREAL, QC

Linda Covit's *Havre* is a striking sphere of metallic ribbons that rises 13 metres above rust-coloured soil and manicured grass on the grounds of the McGill University Health Centre. This sculpture is full of symbolism. While scaled to the immensity of the site, *Havre* also retains a more intimate experience. Conveyed as a "sculptural embrace," it welcomes patients, visitors, staff and passers-by into the artwork through three "doors," offering a personal experience. The ribbons also resemble interlinked hands uplifted to represent the healthcare workers who care for and shelter their patients. In the sunlight, the sculpture creates ribbon-like shadows that slowly move and transform throughout the day. At night, blue and blue-green lights illuminate the sphere in shades of sky and water — a safe harbor in the hospital grounds. This sculpture is located at Glen Site Main Plaza on the Health Centre grounds.



Photo: Rob Blanchard



Photo: Cliff Garten Studio



### 4 | ÉCOBUAGE — WINNIPEG, MB

This past September, the newest addition to Winnipeg's St. Vital Park was unveiled. Created by the design firms Plain Projects and Urban Ink, it is part art installation and part functional fire pit that includes a seating area. A tapered, laser-cut metal tower sits in the dappled light of nearby trees that provide relief on scorching prairie summer days. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own delectables to barbeque in the fire pit while enjoying the beautiful surroundings. The designers chose the fire pit also to symbolize the controlled burn that nature uses to regenerate the prairies. The laser-cut patterns on the tower depict a flame pattern themselves, an element that can be seen at night illuminated by the real flames from the fire pit. This unique art space is open year-round in St. Vital Park, a 46-hectare park on the Red River.

Photo: Acorn Art & Photography

### 5 | LUMINOUS CROSSINGS

CALGARY, AB

Artist Cliff Garten was inspired by the "x" symbol of train crossings and the elegant intersection of train tracks in this public art installation. Luminous Crossings is a collection of four freestanding and 16 hanging sculptures, with a system of LED lights that illuminate the sculptures and the transit canopies at night. The colour combinations are synchronized to the arrival and departure of the transit trains. In the daytime, the luminous metal sculptures tower precariously above the street on narrow bases that allow traffic to flow easily around them. This installation can be found in the 7th Avenue corridor in the downtown core of Calgary. ➔