



MARIE KHOURI

On art & community

Approaching the corner of Dunbar and 29th, it will seem as though a cloud has come to earth. It will appear light, ethereal. And yet, the sculpture that will sit in Legacy's public plaza is solid concrete, transformed by the award-winning artistry of Vancouver's Marie Khouri.

Born in Egypt, raised in Lebanon, Marie Khouri discovered her passion for sculpture in Paris,

at l'Ecole du Louvre. There, she began to experiment with the bold synthesis of organic forms and modern materials that has become her signature style.

The Legacy sculpture, is part of Qualex Landmark's™ enduring commitment to Vancouver's communities. While the dream-like sculpture may look lighter than air, its sinuous curves form an elegant banquette, creating the ideal spot for neighbours to meet.

How do you think public art fits in or enhances a neighbourhood?

Public art contributes to the community's identity and pride. It gives a sense of belonging. Public Art is to be shared by everyone and should enrich the physical environment, give it life. It connects citizens to a neighbourhood. It opens eyes, minds, creates conversations.



Dunbar is a close-knit community that honours the essence of family and west side living. How did you incorporate those components into the artwork you created for Legacy?

I wanted to create a work of art that families and children could enjoy while on a stroll. There are also very few seating elements along public walks and spaces. I wanted to introduce and offer a contemporary abstract sculpture which doubles as a bench, which allows for connections to be made, for conversations to be sparked. A place for someone to just sit and observe.

Tell us about your process when it came to creating the sculpture for Legacy.

It all starts in the palm of my hand with a lump of clay that take form as I sculpt them from drawings in my head. I felt the need to create sculpture that one could sit on that could be touched, playful.

Direct carving and timeless, unconstrained forms are firmly situated in the contemporary moment.

Pushing the barriers of the medium where the surfaces reveal the entire process and the finished sculpture reveals the evolutionary method by which it was created.

