



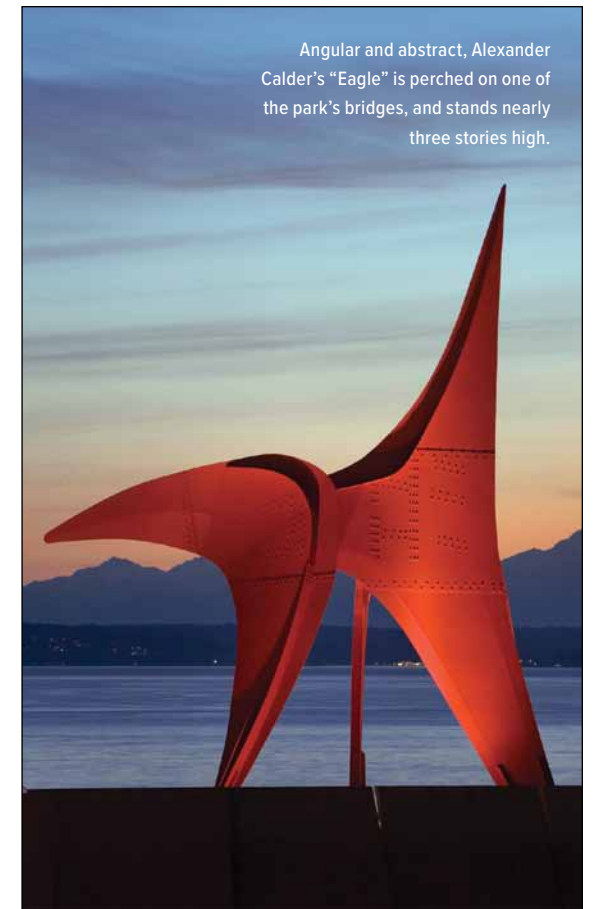
Art in the Wild

Take a sculpture safari to discover compelling art in natural settings

BY JILL VON SPRECKEN

In Seattle's Olympic Sculpture Park, the huge masterpieces laid out along the zigzagging pathways are either framed by the city skyline or the bustling waterfront—all depending on the direction you're facing. The panoramic space is studded with sculptures in granite, steel, wood and bronze, including the monumental "Echo" by award-winning artist Jaume Plensa. The piece is modelled after a nine-year-old girl, but references the nymph of Greek myth, forever condemned to repeat the words of others. She gazes out towards Mount Olympus, and invites us to contemplate our own voice and words in the age of information.

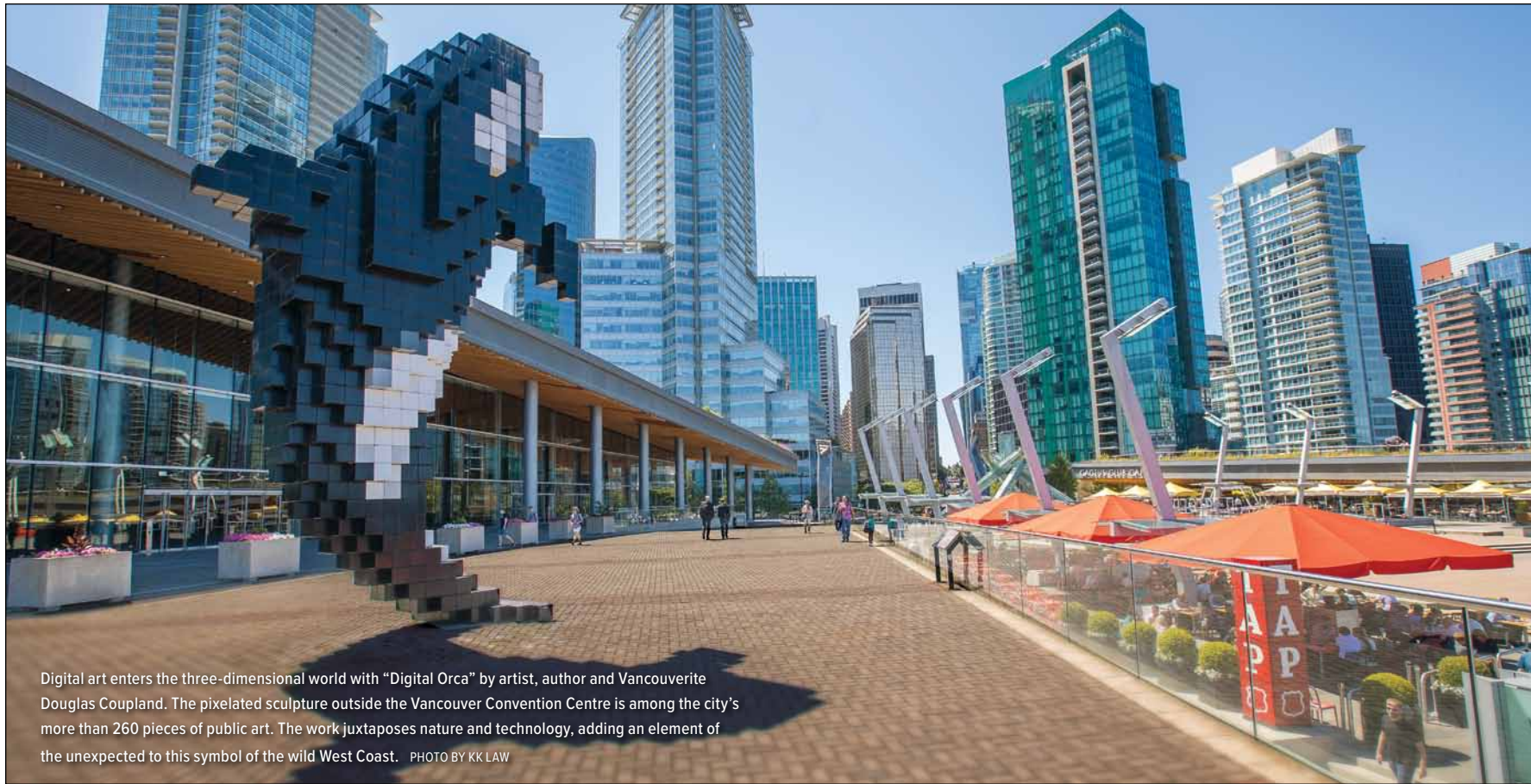
PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN BENSCHNEIDER



Angular and abstract, Alexander Calder's "Eagle" is perched on one of the park's bridges, and stands nearly three stories high.



The towering, rippling forms of Richard Serra's "Wake" physically engage with our perception of space.



Digital art enters the three-dimensional world with “Digital Orca” by artist, author and Vancouverite Douglas Coupland. The pixelated sculpture outside the Vancouver Convention Centre is among the city’s more than 260 pieces of public art. The work juxtaposes nature and technology, adding an element of the unexpected to this symbol of the wild West Coast. PHOTO BY KK LAW



Of all Whistler’s outdoor wonders, it’s fitting that a few are outstanding art pieces. Just across from the Audain Art Museum, look for “A Timeless Circle” by Coast Salish artist Susan Point. Cast in bronze, the sculpture features 86 faces—each unique and first hand-carved in cedar—which aim to capture and celebrate the diversity that the 2010 Winter Olympics brought to Whistler. PHOTO BY JUSTA JESKOVA COURTESY TOURISM WHISTLER



Jasper’s “Two Brothers” totem pole has a story to tell. It all begins in 1907, when a Haida totem pole featuring a raven was first erected. After 94 years, the decaying pole was removed, and brothers Gwaii and Jaalen Edenshaw were commissioned to create a new one. Painted in the traditional Haida colours of red, black and blue, the pole tells the story of two brothers who travel from the coastal islands of Haida Gwaii to the Rockies—one stays, while the other returns.

PHOTO © PARKS CANADA



In downtown Calgary, this 3.6-m- (12-ft-) tall sculpture is turning heads. "Wonderland," the bent-wire bust by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, depicts a young girl's head, who gazes serenely at the hustle and bustle of her urban environment. Two door-sized openings give the piece an interactive feel, allowing the curious to wander inside. RM

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