

Family: Five Figures for a Triangle
a public artwork
by
Lyse Lemieux

Commissioned by the Intergulf Development Group
for the **City of Vancouver Public Art Program**

Installed September 29, 2020 at 4599 Cambie Street, Vancouver, CA



Photo credit: Rachel Topham

FAMILY; Five Figures for a Triangle, a public artwork commissioned in 2015 by the **Intergulf Development Group** for the **City of Vancouver Public Art Program** was installed September 29 2020 at the Empire Building located at 4599 Cambie Street in Vancouver across the street and steps away, from the gardened quarry of one of the oldest public sites in Vancouver, Queen Elizabeth Park where for decades families and friends have gathered to play, to picnic and to celebrate together.

The five figures that make up this *family* are intentionally not gendered and not culturally specific. These double-sided figures are a playful, strong and hopeful point of connection to the concept of community, home and body. The two tallest of the five figures stand on the perimeter of the group while the other three are at the core of the gathering. Each figure a cacophonous meeting of patterns and painted interstices.

Reproduced by a process of dye sublimation on aluminum the fabrics and patterns that make up the figures are universal and immediately recognizable. The stripes, plaids, paisleys and dotted fabrics of the shirt-collars and shirt-plackets that make up each figure, brings forward memories and narratives of our own past and histories, regardless of age, gender or cultural background.

Most challenging during the conceptual stages of this artwork was meeting my commitment to have the final fabricated work seamlessly translate the original maquettes made out of paper and fabric in the studio.

Finally, although their positioning on the plaza was determined years before the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic and the now familiar concept of *physical distancing*, this gathering synchronistically stands apart and yet, in step with each other and the current reality of those times.