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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WATCH ARTISTS COMPETE AS PART OF WESTERN CANADA’S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR**

***The Annual ‘Art Masters’ Competition Puts Professionals’ Creativity to the Test***

**Vancouver, BC - March X, 2019 -** Art Vancouver, Western Canada’s largest international art fair is back for its fifth year this April 25th to 28th, and with it returns the highly-anticipated Art Masters competition. Art Masters challenges professional artists to create an art piece within an hour, matching a specified theme and using a unique box of supplies provided at the event itself.

The competing artists are given just 15 minutes to explore their mystery box of supplies to decide how to create a themed piece of canvas art prior to the start of the competition, forcing them to think on their feet and push their creativity. Last year, audience members were treated to the artists’ interpretation of the theme “float like a butterfly and sting like a bee,” a quote made by boxer Muhammad Ali, with local artist Danyne Johnston taking home first place. For 2019, the artists are tasked with creating under the theme “uniting nations through art,” following Art Vancouver’s overarching theme.

This year, 8 artists will be participating in Art Masters, during Art Vancouver’s second evening on Friday, April 26th. Attendees also have the ability to participate in the fun, and will be given the chance to vote for their favourite painted piece.

Looking to watch this year’s Art Masters? All Art Vancouver ticket holders gain entry to the event at no extra fee. To purchase tickets, visit artvancouver.net. With an extensive speaker series, panel talk, guided tours, and more, Art Vancouver promises to offer something for both artists and art lovers alike.

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***About Art Vancouver***

*Founded in 2015, Art Vancouver is Western Canada’s largest, international fine arts fair and features local and international artists and galleries. The fair includes a diverse collection of work from exhibitors around the world, along with an Opening Night runway show and an extensive speaker series.*

*For the latest updates on Art Vancouver, visit www.artvancouver.net, send us an email at media@artvancouver.net, or find us on Instagram: @artvancouver.*