

"My country is the earth, and I am a citizen of the world."\*

When I started to work on the banners I was inspired by Jaume Plensa's beautiful fountain sculpture in Chicago. I proposed portraits as the basis of the banner imagery and was asked how I was going to pick (a limited number of) people.

Beginning with 'universal' facial expressions I began to think about how we all have 'universal types' in our lives, the people that make up the patterns of our day-to-day life: people who make our favorite cup of coffee, who sell us lunch, who remind us of a long lost grandmother, or who drive our bus. I decided to pick people over the course of a week who represented these universals to me. I think this group also has three things in common: kindness, openness and humor.

Bruce, the bus-driver, happened to be on a different route than normal. I had already taken several buses that week, but felt he represented what I like about Calgary. He was very kind to everyone entering and exiting the bus.

Susana works in the same building as I do. She is one of the hardest working people I know, but always has time for a chat. She told me about her son who at the time had just returned from Afghanistan and how she had not slept the entire time he was gone.

Teri is a student, manages the local coffee place and makes a latte that makes your heart skip a beat. I always come back to my office a little happier after chatting with her. I think it is her energy - I also love it that she is efficient.

John is the Renaissance man. He will be an engineer. He takes photographs, edits and produces the student paper and is an all-around nice person. I think he could become one of the greats - he has an interest in so many things and that is a great asset.

Ellis is the kid full of energy. He never stops, he is insanely cute and clever. I think we all know kids like this.

Netty represents for me the family you leave behind when you move to a new country. I think we all look for people to replace the roles aunts, uncles, and grandmother used to play. She is one of the most lively people I know. I always think: "I hope I'm that cool when I reach her age".

Don feeds me during the week. He started talking about hiking. He lives to hike with his dog. I think Calgary is full of people who dream of the mountains from Monday to Friday and escape on the weekends. He said he used to organize photo sessions for the baseball teams he worked for in Korea. He was excited when I asked him if he was interested in posing for the banners.

Seares is one of my students. I teach drawing to 700 engineering students a year. It is hard to get to know all the students. She has a great sense of humor and really stood out for me. I discovered she is doing a double degree in engineering and biology.

## Artist Statement Marjan Eggermont

The location of the banners dictated the background patterns: the bridges connect nature and culture. The patterns show natural forms you might find at the edge of the Bow: leaves, butterflies, bugs and spiders. The patterns also include city or city culture elements: running shoes, coffee machines, tourist taking pictures and helicopters (traffic, police, or Stars).