

***Artist creates extraordinary works reimagined from the everyday***

*José Luis Torres: HANDMADE  
May 10, 2025 to May 2026*

**May 8, 2025 – Kelowna, BC:** Okanagan audiences will soon have the chance to see a towering new art installation at the Kelowna Art Gallery that reimagines ordinary materials and transforms them into something extraordinary.

The artist behind the work is Quebec City-based Argentine sculptor **José Luis Torres**, whose work has been shown and celebrated in public spaces and art institutions across Canada. The art installation, titled **HANDMADE**, can be found in the open-air Courtyard space located at the heart of the Gallery building. It opens to the public on May 10, 2025.

Through playful, evolving environments, José Luis Torres enjoys challenging conventional exhibition standards and the idealized image of the artist. *HANDMADE* continues this exploration between location, materials, and the viewer in a delightfully engaging way, which is sure to spark the curiosity of Gallery-goers.

Visitors will encounter a structure that rises on stilts above a foundation built from old wooden pallets. The small domicile-like building is constructed almost entirely from window frames, doors, and a substantial amount of glass. Peering in from the perimeter it looks almost maze-like in its complexity within. Torres' artistic practice involves appropriating space and materials from everyday life—like all the doors, windows, pallets, and other items that were locally sourced from individuals—and then given the freedom to evolve and take form through spontaneous hands-on actions. His work reflects themes of survival, workforce, and the value of objects as both fundamental and incidental.

**José Luis Torres** is an Argentine artist who has been based in Québec City since 2003. He holds degrees in visual arts, sculpture, and architecture. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including at Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, Museum London, and the UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art.

An **Opening Reception** will be held on **Friday, May 9, 2025**, from 6 to 8 pm at the Kelowna Art Gallery. The artist will be in attendance, and the public is welcome to attend.

*José Luis Torres: HANDMADE* runs from May 10, 2025, to May of 2026.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street in the heart of Kelowna's Culture District. For more information visit [kelownaartgallery.com](http://kelownaartgallery.com) or call 250-762-2226.

## **About the Kelowna Art Gallery**

The Kelowna Art Gallery engages, inspires, and enriches the community it serves through the exhibition, collection, and interpretation of visual art. Work by Canadian artists, both historical and contemporary, are presented in five distinct exhibition spaces. The Kelowna Art Gallery is invested in the idea that art helps to bring people together; and that life is simply better with art in it. Programs for people of all ages and backgrounds help to instill confidence in ones' creativity and to foster meaningful dialogue on matters important to Canadians.

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## **Media Inquiries**

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