

# German artist takes hands-on approach to her painting of Vancouver harbour



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German artist Jeannine Platz starts her painting of the Vancouver harbour in Suite 2090 at the Westin Bayshore. *KEVIN GRIFFIN / PNG*

A German artist has painted Vancouver harbour with her hands for an international art project called Suite View.

Jeannine Platz (<http://bit.ly/2gh9F1y>) is travelling around the world to paint the harbour and skyline of cities from the perspective of a hotel room.

In Vancouver, she turned Room 2090 in the Westin Bayshore (<http://www.westinbayshore.com/>) into a temporary studio while she painted the view looking east toward Burrard Inlet, the North Shore mountains and the buildings along the downtown waterfront.

The corner suite, on the top floor of the hotel's 20-storey tower, is famous for being the home of reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes (<http://bit.ly/2gn9e7n>) for six months in 1972.

Platz said she likes painting the view from a hotel room because of its anonymity. Being at a height also makes her feel as if the view is all hers.

"The special thing in a hotel — you have nothing personal in it," she said. "Nevertheless, I feel at home. Everything is there. I feel connected with everything. I don't know why."

The seed for Platz's project was planted several years ago when she was on a container ship and fell in love with the far view of the horizon on the ocean. She wanted to recapture that feeling of distance in her home city of Hamburg.

She started two years ago by painting the view of the city's port from the Westin hotel. Her process since then includes staying in a city long enough to see it day and night.

After Hamburg, she painted in Oslo and then Istanbul. Vancouver marks her 43rd Suite View stop and will be the only Canadian city to feature among her 50 paintings.



Jeannine Platz begins her painting, the 43rd in the Suite View series of 50 artworks.  
*KEVIN GRIFFIN / PNG*

Vancouver's weather changed her usual approach. When she arrived, the clouds were so grey and dense she could barely see the North Shore mountains. But when she woke up the next day, the heavy cloud had lifted so she could see much more of the harbour and downtown. The change made her start her painting all over again.

"The light changes very fast in Vancouver," she said.

"Sometimes there is fog, and sun, and the contrast between big buildings and the mountains. There is the water and container ships — and the planes. There is so much to see."

Platz mostly uses her hands to apply paint so she can feel the landscape, she says. Sometimes she uses tools such as a toothbrush to create a splatter effect.

"When I have a brush between my fingers and the canvas, I cannot feel it," Platz said. "I start and my hands do the painting."

Platz started her acrylic painting early Wednesday and finished it the next day. Her next city is San Francisco.

The painting of Vancouver's harbour and skyline will be part of an exhibition of all 50 of Platz's Suite View paintings, which will be held

next May at the Westin Hamburg. The hotel is located in the [Elbphilharmonie \(https://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/\)](https://www.elbphilharmonie.de/en/), the city's new \$1.1-billion concert hall designed by Swiss firm [Herzog & de Meuron \(https://www.herzogdemeuron.com/index.html\)](https://www.herzogdemeuron.com/index.html).

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