Ascension
Artist Team – INCIPIO MODO

Ascension is a public artwork integrated into the plaza located at 4th Avenue and 9th Street S.W. in downtown Calgary.

Ascension is a work of art that encourages Calgarians to contemplate the notions of ascension, direction, steadfastness, shared passage and the value of life at every level. These concepts, which reflect some of the principles of the neighbouring Buddhist monastery, are brought to bear through two larger-than-life insects, working their way to the summit of a distinctly Alberta landscape, complete with changing elevations and varied terrain.

The artwork complements the larger aspirations of the new park (that is, to reflect the movement of life on a local and regional context) and creates an almost Alice-in-Wonderland effect for visitors on the ground. The scale, however, ensures that those looking down from neighbouring buildings are also drawn to the piece, albeit in a completely different, but equally engaging way.

The Artists
INCIPIO MODO is composed of two sculptors, Danira Miralda and Edward Beltran, and an architect, Rodolfo Miralda-Bulnes. Together they produce both abstract and figurative work, integrated and stand-alone, in a variety of mediums and at all different scales. Danira studied in Mexico City, where she founded and directed *Aberracion cromatica,* and has recently been added to the Dictionary of Mexican Sculptors of the 20th and 21st Century. Edward has also exhibited throughout Mexico, winning several awards and honorary mentions. He studied in Salamanca Guanajuato, worked on the Vancouver Biennale project, and has received such commissions as the public bust of Coronel Pinzon and the outdoor monument *Bronze Tree.*

The Project
- The artist was chosen through a limited call process targeting Alberta artists.
- Funding for the art was derived from the same fund established to implement the Centre City Parks and Public Realm Enhancements Plan. The artist budget was $66,500.
- *Ascension* was installed in December 2012.