



Calgary artist Kyle Beal pops out of what he refers to as "the blank hallway." Titled *Roulette*, Beal's interactive spin on a fun house is being hosted at TRUCK Contemporary Art until May 2. ANNA BROOKS/METRO

Apartment hunt sparks art fun house

CULTURE

Calgary artist hopes 'doorway roulette' piece engages public



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In his biggest art installation to date, Calgary artist Kyle Beal has built his own version of a fun house — a long, white hallway dominated by closed doors, each with something different hidden behind it.

Hosted at TRUCK Contemporary Art, Beal's "doorway roulette" is meant to be fun in terms of how different audiences can interact with the piece, but he said the idea for the installation came from a rather dismal experience looking for a new apartment.

"I was looking at apartments, and all the hallways in those buildings are so ... depressing," Beal said with a laugh. "But that's what makes this familiar to people; most

of us have experienced that. So perhaps people can take away a new perspective on these kinds of experiences in the real world."

With different sounds and surprises hidden behind each door in his engineered hallway, Beal said he was able to combine his interest in comedic tropes while engaging audiences in a more interactive way.

"It's meant to be experienced as opposed to just looked at," Beal said. "Even standing looking at art is a bit uncomfortable, but does it have to be like that? This is different, and there's a willingness of the viewer to be open to that sort of fun."

Scooby-Doo hallways, eyes moving in the walls and loud sounds make Beal's piece seem comedic, but he said he hopes audiences will critically engage with ideas revolving around disorientation and escapism.

"There's comedic conventions at play with this sort of suspension of logic," he said. "But you have (to) be humorous to be serious. It's taking that idea and coming from the place of how we experience things."