

CONDÉ NAST

Traveler

The New York City Public Art to See This Summer By Betsy Blumenthal — July 8, 2016



Courtesy the artist, 11R, New York, and Taro Nasu, Tokyo. ©Yasunori Matsui
Mika Tajima, *Meridian (Gold)*, 2016, installation view in Hunter's Point South Park, New York. Pressurized water vapor system, networked LED bulbs, real-time gold commodity indexes, custom analysis program, wood, pigment, sculpted resin. 20 x 144 x 144 inches (50.8 x 365.8 x 365.8 cm). Commissioned by SculptureCenter, New York.

Get to these NYC art installations (and these neighborhoods) while they're hot.

Art lovers have plenty to see in New York City, from the recently-reopened Whitney Museum to the cool galleries in Chinatown and the Lower East Side. But while the weather's nice, check out these outdoor installations that were practically built just for your Instagram account. These works aren't just pretty, though—they each spotlight emerging (or re-emerging) sections of New York.

MERIDIAN (GOLD)

Brooklyn-based artist **Mika Tajima's** installation on Long Island City's Hunter's Point South Park, on the Queens waterfront just across from midtown Manhattan, is fleeting in every way: the temporary public arts project, a boxy, wood and resin structure, emits a plume of illuminated water vapor whose colors shift spectrally between magenta and pale cyan. **The twist? The change in color corresponds to the real-time fluctuation of the global price of gold.** Bordered by a bench-like seat that's meant to evoke a communal spa, the project challenges viewers to ponder both the fickle nature of social perception and our obsession with material goods.

Commissioned by **SculptureCenter** as part of Public Process, a program that teaches high school students about public art, the installation sits on a stretch of waterfront that was once a post-industrial wasteland, proving that with a little TLC, some of the city's most hopeless locales can be spiffed up and reimagined. Take a break from contemplating "the fleeting materiality of contemporary life" at LIC Landing, an outdoor event space with a café, next door to a central green, a playground, and a dog run.

June 9-September 25.