

**18TH ANNUAL RIVER TO RIVER FESTIVAL  
PRESENTS LARGE-SCALE PUBLIC ARTWORKS  
BY YOKO ONO, INCLUDING THE ARTIST'S  
LARGEST EVER OUTDOOR EXHIBITION IN  
LOWER MANHATTAN AND THE U.S. PREMIERE  
OF *ADD COLOR (REFUGEE BOAT)***

FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY LOWER MANHATTAN CULTURAL  
COUNCIL (LMCC) JUNE 18–29

ALL EVENTS FREE



L to R: DREAM courtesy of Yoko Ono; Yoko Ono's Add Color (Refugee Boat), photo courtesy of Yoko Ono

In keeping with its 45+ year history as the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan and champion of independent artists in NYC, **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** presents large-scale public artworks by the artist **Yoko Ono** in 24 locations in NYC's Financial District as part of the 18th annual **River To River Festival**, running **June 18–29**.

Comprised of two projects: *The Reflection Project* with Yoko Ono and *Add Color (Refugee Boat) (1960/2019)*, LMCC will stage the largest public exhibition ever of the artist's work in Downtown New York.

Curated by **Lili Chopra**, LMCC's Executive Director of Artistic Programs, and **Alice Russotti**, Program Manager, Public Programs & Exhibitions, *The Reflection Project* is a visual and mnemonic counterpoint to the relentless pace of the everyday, and an invitation to connect passersby to a realm of expanded consciousness and moments of personal, meditative pause through the placement of art in non-traditional spaces. The project seeks to perform urban acupuncture with large-scale art, stimulating the city's vast nerve network. Yoko Ono is featured as the inaugural artist for the 2019 edition of *The Reflection Project*. Five of the artist's iconic instructive text works, including *IMAGINE PEACE* and *DREAM* will be exhibited across Lower Manhattan. Each piece is a prompt wherein Ono speaks directly to New Yorkers, rallying the collective consciousness towards heightened awareness, hope and action.

Central to the project is LMCC's partnership with real estate companies, civic organizations, major support from the Alliance for Downtown New York and other stakeholders in Lower Manhattan that have donated storefront spaces, screens and other areas for exhibition display. Across the screens and corridors of transit centers and the exteriors of apartment arcades, New Yorkers are encouraged to walk through the streets of Downtown and discover the many locations that are part of *The Reflection Project*, with key points including Fosun Plaza, Fulton Center, The Oculus at Westfield World Trade Center and the Seaport District. *The Reflection Project* marks the first time that Ono's text-based works will be displayed on such wide scale in Lower Manhattan.

Launching simultaneously with *The Reflection Project*, LMCC also presents the U.S. Premiere of Ono's *Add Color (Refugee Boat) (1960/2019)*, a participatory installation piece shown for the first time ever in the United States, also on view from June 18–29.

Upon opening, the work will be comprised simply of a small boat placed within an empty space. The public will then be invited to paint their thoughts, ideas and hopes on the walls, floor and boat. As the installation progresses, messages will be written in support, contrast and literal obfuscation of one another, moving the space from visual calm to a layered visual chaos—a beautiful sea of color from afar, a more restless reality upon closer inspection. Freely imbued in this way with a multiplicity of thoughts, each time *Add Color (Refugee Boat)* is shown it both shares in the memory of past iterations while taking on a life and a meaning of its own—acutely reflecting the time, place and people that come together to create it. *Add Color* has been previously exhibited in Mori, Japan; Thessaloniki, Greece; Leeds, England; and Leipzig, Germany. Appropriately housed in a storefront in the Seaport District, LMCC's New York City installation of *Add Color (Refugee Boat)* is made possible with generous support from The Howard Hughes Corporation.

Of both projects, Ono commented, "I can't wait to see *The Reflection Project* transform Lower Manhattan with my artworks. I hope they make busy New Yorkers stop rushing through their day to Imagine Peace, Remember Love, and Dream. *My Add Color (Refugee Boat)* will be in the Seaport District, once a center for immigrants, merchants, artisans and workers. Please come add your hopes and beliefs to the boat so that it is created as a reflection of all New York."

With *The Reflection Project* and *Add Color (Refugee Boat)*, LMCC is pleased to present the work of iconic New York City artist Yoko Ono as a centerpiece of its 2019 River To River Festival in Lower Manhattan. Across the entirety of its programs, LMCC welcomes all to appreciate the work of artists in Lower Manhattan through large-scale and intimate free arts and culture events.

## LISTINGS INFORMATION:

*Dates, times and locations subject to change—be sure to check [lmcc.net/river-to-river](http://lmcc.net/river-to-river) for up to-date information.*

### THE REFLECTION PROJECT WITH YOKO ONO INSTRUCTIONAL TEXT PIECE WORKS

June 18–June 29

Multiple locations across Downtown Manhattan including the Fulton Center, Fosun Plaza, The Oculus at Westfield World Trade Center, the Seaport District and various storefront windows.

In keeping with LMCC's tradition of occupying various spaces within the shifting landscape of New York City, *The Reflection Project* will present five text works by Yoko Ono across Downtown Manhattan in non-traditional spaces. The project seeks to counter the relentless pace of the everyday by inviting passersby to engage with a realm of expanded consciousness and personal reflection through Ono's instructive text works. By activating mundane spaces and transforming them into

vehicles of mindful communication, the project seeks to perform urban acupuncture, stimulating the city's vast nerve network and opening channels of communication and action grounded in thought rather than impulse.

## **YOKO ONO**

### **ADD COLOR (REFUGEE BOAT) (1960/2019)**

June 18, 5:30–7 p.m., Opening Reception

June 19–June 29, 12–8 p.m.

203 Front Street, the Seaport District

*Add Color (Refugee Boat)* (1960/2019) is a participatory installation conceived by Yoko Ono. Upon opening, the work will be comprised simply of a boat placed within an empty space. The public will then be invited to paint their thoughts, ideas and hopes on the walls, floor and boat. As the installation progresses, messages will be written in support, contrast and literal obfuscation of one another, moving the space from visual calm to a layered visual chaos—a beautiful sea of color from afar, a more restless reality upon closer inspection. Freely imbued in this way with a multiplicity of thoughts, each time *Add Color (Refugee Boat)* is shown it both shares in the memory of past iterations, as well as taking on a life and a meaning of its own—acutely reflecting the time, place and people that come together to create it.

## **ABOUT YOKO ONO**

Yoko Ono (b.1933) is a New York-based multi-media artist working in performance, instruction, film, installation, music, and writing. A forerunner in conceptual art involving collaboration, audience participation and social activism since the early 1960s, Ono challenges viewers' understanding of art and the world around them. Her influence spans many of the key artistic movements of the late 20th century including Fluxus, conceptual art, video art and feminism. In addition to her work as a visual artist, Ono is also a musical pioneer, both an accomplished singer and songwriter.

Yoko Ono's iconic status is woven into the fabric of New York. Her fierce strength, passion, creativity and originality reflect the very pulse of the city and armor its citizens with pride and resilience. Her unbridled hope for world love and peace and her activist commitment to living with heightened awareness has remained true and fundamental to who she is throughout her life, making her a figure of splendid revolution with timeless importance. Like no other, Yoko Ono's work, whether it be performed, written, spoken or danced, cuts through the noise and communicates with a startling and profound simplicity.

## **ABOUT LMCC**

Founded as Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), LMCC serves, connects and makes space for artists and community.

Since 1973, LMCC has been the quiet champion for independent artists in New York City and the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan.

### **LMCC Serves Artists through:**

- Residencies that enable artists to experiment and develop their work and ideas, with professional development, financial training and networking opportunities
- Grant funding to artists that support local/neighborhood projects
- Presentation opportunities that allow artists to share their work and creative process with the

public

## **LMCC Serves Community through:**

- Free public programs in Lower Manhattan that activate neighborhoods and bring people together through performances and rich artistic experiences
- Access to artists and the artmaking process to build connections and dialogue between artists and audiences
- Grant funding for neighborhood arts and community-based organizations

## **PROJECT SUPPORTERS**

Major support of *The Reflection Project* is provided by Alliance for Downtown New York.

Support for *The Reflection Project* is provided through generous space donations by the following partners and locations:

Fosun: Fosun Plaza @ 28 Liberty

DTH Capital and Rose Associates: 70 Pine Street

One Hundred Barclay Tribeca: One Hundred Barclay Street

AHRC NYC: 83 Maiden Lane

Black Horse Capital: 105A Nassau Street

The Frederick Hotel: 125 Chambers Street

The Heller Organization: 60 Fulton Street

The Howard Hughes Corporation: 193 Front Street + 203 Front Street

JC Decaux: Bus Shelters

Port Authority New York & New Jersey: The Oculus at Westfield World Trade Center + 2WTC

Silverstein Properties: 120 Broadway + 120 Wall Street

Time Equities: 125 Maiden Lane

Westfield: The Oculus at Westfield World Trade Center + Fulton Center

Vanbarton Group: 160 Water Street

Sites identified in partnership with Rudder Property Group. Special thanks to Michael Rudder.

*Add Color (Refugee Boat)* is supported by The Howard Hughes Corporation.

## **RIVER TO RIVER FOUNDING PARTNERS**

River To River was founded in 2002 by American Express, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Alliance for Downtown New York, Arts Brookfield, Battery Park City Authority, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and the Seaport District.

## **2019 RIVER TO RIVER FUNDING**

Leadership Support provided by: American Express, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Major Support provided by: Battery Park City Authority, Goldman, Sachs & Co., and The Howard Hughes Corporation.

Friends of the Festival: Howard Gilman Foundation, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, Con Edison, and New England Foundation for the Arts.

*Add Color (Refugee Boat)* is supported by The Howard Hughes Corporation.

Major support of *The Reflection Project* is provided by Alliance for Downtown New York.

*The Listeners* is supported in part by Art Matters.

## 2019 RIVER TO RIVER PARTNERS

Festival Partners:

Anderson Contemporary, MHP Real Estate Services, and Clarion Partners

Battery Park City Authority

Cove Property Group and Bentall Kennedy

Downtown Culturals Association

Drag Queen Story Hour

Fisher Center at Bard College

Fosun

Friends of Pier 35

The Howard Hughes Corporation

Hyperallergic

JC Decaux

The Joyce Theater

MTA Arts & Design

National Park Service

New Design High School

New York Public Library and Seward Park Library Branch

NYC Department of Transportation Art Program / DOT Borough Engineering

Port Authority New York & New Jersey

Tribeca Art+Culture Night

Rooftop Films

South Street Seaport Museum

Stonewall 50 Consortium

Westfield

Two Bridges Neighborhood Council

<http://www.lmcc.net/river-to-river>

#R2R19 #RiverToRiver #LMCC #slowdown #TheReflectionProject #yokoono #addcolor

Facebook: [facebook.com/LMCCNYC](https://www.facebook.com/LMCCNYC)

Twitter: @LMCC

Instagram: @LMCC\_NYC

**For more information, please contact**

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