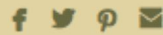


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THE
COLLECTISTA

ON VIEW NOW: THE "H" IN HARLEM



Artist Bentley Meeker

You have one more week to take in The "H" in Harlem under the viaduct at 125th Street and 12th Avenue! This huge public installation is the result of a collaboration between the West Harlem Community Board 9, the New York City Department of Transportation, the 125th Street Business Improvement District, the West Harlem Art Fund, and artist Bentley Meeker, and is on view until September 25.

Now, I know what many collectistas think the moment they see a big “H” inside an oval. Get French fashion off your mind right this instant! This stunning display of lights was unveiled in June and is waaay bigger than that –both literally and physically. The “H” in Harlem is a juxtaposition of mono-spectrum and full-spectrum lights. Specifically, it is comprised of aluminum oval and truss structures, and LED and plasma lights. It illuminates Harlem and is visible across the Hudson River from New Jersey. The illumination is twice as great as surrounding streetlights.

Artist Bentley Meeker undertook this inspiring project with “gratitude, humility, and respect.” Having previously exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, Gallery 151, Gallery nine5, and the Southampton Art Center, Meeker sought to make a great neighborhood and its amazing art vibe even better. He really wanted to honor Harlem, where he has resided for more than 13 years. This work has been a wild success! Why a big “H”? Meeker says there was no inspiration per se. It’s more about the heightened relationship between humans and light. He looked forward to viewers’ getting their own ideas, and drawing their own conclusions. “People are brilliant,” says Meeker, and he doesn’t want them to feel locked into figuring out the “right” intention. As both an artist and owner of a lighting and staging company, Bentley Meeker pushes boundaries when it comes to lighting. He continues to create platforms for accessing personal relationships with the effects of light. Learn more about Bentley in our download!

WHAT IS YOUR PROCESS?

Every installation has its own individual process. It depends on the environment. Everything has a different context and therefore must have its own way of being.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

Red wine, and art that I love by artists I love. The common thread amongst the art is that it must move me.

WHAT IS YOUR THEME SONG?

This question is awesome but I don't have one! My installations tend to have me working in silence, so music is not a part of my process.

WHO IS THE PERSON WHO INSPIRES YOU MOST?

Richard Serra works in the MOMA sculpture garden. The layout transforms the environment. It is challenging to control and dictate space in New York, but Richard Serra does it. Also, Robert Moses. The way he visualized modern society is very important. He showed us that nothing is impossible.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PHILANTHROPIC CAUSE?

Black Rock Arts Foundation. Lots of work comes up through Burning Man, and the Black Rock Arts Foundation helps with orderly transitions in communities.