



Arts &  
Design

## Media Announcement

### MTA Arts & Design Reveals Spectacular Mosaic Installation by Nick Cave in New 42 St Connector



*Each One, Every One, Equal All* (2022) © Nick Cave, NYC Transit Times Sq-42 St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Image: 'Every One' mosaic in 42 St Connector. Photo: MTA/ Trent Reeves

(NEW YORK, NY — September 10, 2021) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce *Each One, Every One, Equal All*, a new artwork by celebrated artist Nick Cave. The first and largest section of the permanent art commission, 'Every One' was revealed today at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) New York City Transit Times Sq-42 St Station. Comprised of mosaic and video 'Every One' runs the length of the new 42 St Connector, an in-system walking transfer between the 42 St Shuttle at Times Square and Bryant Park. More than one hundred thousand people are predicted to use the new 42 St Connector daily.

"At Times Square, Nick continues his practice of engaging audiences and extending himself into the community connecting those who encounter the art and imagining themselves as part of the parade. Nowhere is the audience larger and more in step with his intent than here at Times Square, located at the center of the New York metropolitan area, the largest in the world, which now carries Cave's message that each and every one of us is equal. That message will reverberate in one of the most diverse public spaces on earth," says **Sandra Bloodworth**, Director, MTA Arts & Design.

Artist **Nick Cave** states, "Times Square is one of the busiest, most diverse and fabulously kinetic places on the planet. For this project I took the aboveground color, movement, and cross-pollination of humanity, bundled it into a powerful and compact energy mass that is taken underground and delivered throughout the station and passage. 'Every One' places the viewer within a performance, directly connecting them with the Soundsuits as part of an inclusive community of difference."

'Every One' is an expansive installation on the North and East walls of the 42 St Connector. The artwork runs 360 linear feet and covers over 3,200 square feet. It includes more than two dozen Soundsuits, some larger than life and bursting with joy. Cave's design uses recomposed source



*Each One, Every One, Equal All* (2022) © Nick Cave, NYC Transit Times Sq-42 St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Image: Artist Nick Cave with 'Every One'. Photo: MTA Arts & Design/ Cheryl Hageman

photos of Soundsuits, taken by James Prinz. The outcome defies the static form of mosaic and becomes animated by the movement of individuals passing by. Like the suits themselves, the installation's shifting scale and perspectives test the boundaries of visibility. Even in their ability to delight, there is power and command in their presence.

Cave's Soundsuits are also brought to life in a companion video piece of the same name. 'Every One' will be displayed on eleven **OUTFRONT** liveboard digital screens, centrally displayed in the 42 St Connector. On each quarter hour a short digital work, 2-3 minutes in length, will be shown. The video depicts the Soundsuits, many of which can be seen in the surrounding mosaic, fully activated by the movement of dancers.

The art and architecture engage the customer in a colorful visual journey between the stations at Times Square and Bryant Park – two iconic locations. Colors within the glass mosaic are mirrored in the architectural finish on the corresponding South wall. The design for the ceramic tile color-banding was created by the artist in tandem with the 42 St Connector architects, **di Domenico + Partners**. MTA Stations Architecture provided in-house architectural design for the 42 St Shuttle.

'Every One' will be joined by two additional mosaics, 'Each One' and 'Equal All,' also fabricated by **Mayer of Munich** and scheduled for installation at Times Sq-42 St station next year. When complete, *Each One, Every One, Equal All*, will be nearly 4,600 square feet total, Cave's largest permanent public art to date as well as one of the largest mosaic projects in the New York City Transit system.

Cave is best known for his Soundsuits, wearable sculpture which camouflage the body within, creating a second skin to conceal race, gender and class, freeing the wearer and forcing the viewer to look without judgment. With references to African ceremonial costumes and masks, armor, couture fashion, and Carnival, Cave's elaborate armatures offer both protection and freedom when worn. His suits may be experienced as static sculptures, or through video, mixed-media, and live performance. Constructed from everyday objects and found materials such as



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colored hair, crocheted doilies, buttons, beads, fabric, raffia, twigs, toys and trinkets, the sounds produced by the suits through activation give the artworks their name.

*Each One, Every One, Equal All*, features more than four dozen Soundsuits. The colorful forms—extravagant, exuberant, and gleeful—combine fashion and sculpture to become something entirely new. The commission is intended to enhance the journey, bring awareness to the moment, and connect back to the street above and our connectedness as individuals. Commuters and tourists are invited to marvel in the expression of color and movement now permanently part of the Times Square experience.

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## **ABOUT NICK CAVE**

Nick Cave (b. 1959, Fulton, MO; lives and works in Chicago, IL) is an artist, educator and foremost a messenger, working between the visual and performing arts through a wide range of mediums including sculpture, installation, video, sound and performance. Cave is well known for his Soundsuits, sculptural forms based on the scale of his body, initially created in direct response to the police beating of Rodney King in 1991. Soundsuits camouflage the body, masking and creating a second skin that conceals race, gender and class, forcing the viewer to look without judgment. They serve as a visual embodiment of social justice that represent both brutality and empowerment.

## **ABOUT MTA ARTS & DESIGN**

MTA Arts & Design encourages the use of public transportation by providing visual and performing arts in the metropolitan New York area. The Percent for Art program is one of the largest and most diverse collections of site-specific public art in the world, with more than 350 commissions by world-famous, mid-career and emerging artists. Arts & Design produces Graphic Arts, Digital Art, photographic Lightbox exhibitions, as well as live musical performances in stations through its Music Under New York (MUSIC) program, and the Poetry in Motion program in collaboration with the Poetry Society of America. It serves the millions of people who rely upon MTA subways and commuter trains and strives to create meaningful connections between sites, neighborhoods, and people.



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