

Proposal for Temporary Installation – Betsabee Romero on Park Avenue

Artists: Betsabee Romero
Supporting Organizations: The Fund for Park Avenue; Fundación Andrade; Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation; Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de Mexico; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City
Site: Park Avenue Malls (between East 81st and East 83rd Streets)
Dates: Late March 2024 – October 2024

Summary of project:

Betsabeé Romero is a renowned Mexican artist whose artistic practice has centered around carved tires, refashioned cars, painted hoods, incised mirrors, and papier maché. The sculptures to be displayed on Park Avenue are made from tires, each of which is incised with design patterns from Pre-Columbian objects such as textiles and carved stone monuments. Each tire is hand painted with gold or silver leaf, or both. The intricate designs on the tires are based on iconographical motifs from diverse sources in Pre-Columbian art. The tires have multiple entry points including materiality, handcraft, industrial production (cars, trucks, rubber), modern technology, labor, movement (mobility), indigenous symbols, anthropology, and gender.

Each artwork will and will be attached to a base that will sit on the ground and counterweighted with sandbags for additional stability. As required, the artist will submit signed and sealed engineering drawings for review by the MTA Metro-North engineering team to avoid negative impact on the train shed below.