

ARTLOG

Yoko Ono's Imagine Peace: Today in Time Square

By Sarah Bondoc



IMAGINE PEACE stainless steel water bottle designed by Yoko Ono. Courtesy of Art Production Fund.

The multi-talented Yoko Ono continues to spread peace, love and happiness, ideas she made viral with former Beatles musician and deceased husband John Lennon. She received the Lifetime Achievement Golden Lion Award at the 2009 Venice Biennale and was honored with another Lifetime Achievement award at the 2012 Dublin Biennial this past June. Even at seventy-nine, Yoko affects the world with new art projects and even a widely followed Twitter account.

“IMAGINE PEACE” IS BACK

Today Ono brings her ongoing Imagine Peace campaign back to New York City in a public art installation presented by Art Production Fund. The words “IMAGINE PEACE” will be displayed in twenty-four different languages throughout the day on digital signs all over Times Square. In 1985, on what would have been Lennon’s 45th birthday, the Imagine Peace message became part of a black-and-white mosaic in a section of Central Park dubbed “Strawberry Fields.” In 2007, the Imagine Peace Tower was installed in Reykjavik, Iceland. The tower is lit every year between the dates of Lennon’s birth and death as a reminder to preserve the musician’s wish for the world. Just a few months ago, the IMAGINE PEACE message infiltrated London during the 2012 Summer Olympics ceremonies.

FROM THE ARTIST

“...IMAGINE PEACE is a powerful, universal mantra that we should all meditate on. With it, we will achieve the impossible. Hopefully, without bloodshed. Look at all the courageous people who are now being hurt in marches and thrown in prisons for no other reason except for carrying ‘Peace, Love and Freedom’ in their hearts and voicing it. I don’t want you to get hurt. You shouldn’t have to. 7 billion of us, people of the world, have the birthright to live with a healthy mind and body at all times. You should not even get one scratch on you, and you won’t, if you don’t allow it. So keep IMAGINE PEACE in your head. Have a clear picture of where we stand, what we are doing, and where we want to be. Know that we are connected in our hearts and minds. War Is Over, if you want it!”

—Public Message for IMAGINE PEACE 2012

WHERE TO SEE AND SUPPORT

IMAGINE PEACE will appear all day on the Times Square video screens on September 21. Yoko-designed water bottles are also available from Art Production Fund—all proceeds support public art! Ono is represented by Galerie Lelong in New York. Her book *An Invisible Flower* was published this year by Chronicle Books.

FIND OUT MORE

Ono confronts Governor Cuomo with her Artists Against Fracking Campaign and awards Pussy Riot with a peace award in her and John Lennon’s name. Ono also has an official Imagine Peace website and a Flickr account.

GET IN TOUCH

The artist answers questions on her Twitter account every Friday and personally updates the Facebook page. You can also contribute her collective IMAGINE PEACE e-book.

#discover #times square alliance #love #peace #yoko ono



Yoko Ono and her deceased husband John Lennon



IMAGINE mosaic in Strawberry Fields, Central Park adorned with flowers



Imagine Peace Tower In Reykjavik, Iceland



Artist Yoko Ono