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There's a 45-foot-high ballerina in Rock Center

By Raquel Laneri | May 12, 2017



Jeff Koons poses with his latest work, "Seated Ballerina," at Rockefeller Center.

The Rockettes are on vacation, but there's another dancer currently kicking up a storm at Rock Center.

On Friday, pop-art prince Jeff Koons unveiled his latest public art installation, "Seated Ballerina," a 45-foot inflatable sculpture at Rockefeller Center Plaza.

"She conveys a sense of inner strength and optimism," Koons tells The Post of his creation, a blond ballerina bending over to attend to her laced-up pointe shoes. The sculpture was commissioned by the apothecary company Kiehl's and the Art Production Fund to raise awareness of National Missing Children's Month this May.

The blow-up ballerina, an even more oversized version of a large steel sculpture from Koons' "Antiquity" series, is actually based on a small Hungarian figurine the artist had at home. "I loved the smoothness of the surface and thought it would be fun to turn into a large inflatable," Koons says.

The resulting piece took seven months to complete, with Koons' studio collaborating with a manufacturer on a nylon material that could withstand winds of up to 60 mph. (This is one resilient ballerina!) Koons and his crew also had to find a company that specialized in printing on inflatable materials and could give the dancer a reflective, cartoonish glow. Once completed, the whole thing took about a day and a half to install, and 10 minutes to blow up to its current outsize proportions.

Koons says that the larger-than-life quality is essential to the message he wants the ballerina to convey.

"I wanted something that anyone could look at and realize their own potential and dreams."

"Seated Ballerina" is up at Rockefeller Center Plaza through June 2.



"Seated Ballerina" Photos courtesy of Stefano Giovannini