Take a Ride with Chuck Close

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We can count the number of good excuses for being in Times Square on one hand (changing trains, billing room service orders to tourists’ credit cards and, back in the day, peep shows). Today, we had our best excuse yet: Chuck Close!

The artist with possibly the world’s most bad-ass wheelchair made an appearance this morning to unveil his latest works.

As part of the ART ADDS exhibition, two of Close’s pieces will appear on two separate “taxi-top billboards.” A total of four cabs (complete with drivers, and engines running) were on display in the tourist-trap hellhole this morning. The other two featured work by artist Kehinde Wiley.

ART ADDS, a collaborative project between Show Media (which owns the ad-displaying cones on the city’s yellow cabs) and Art Production Fund, will replace ad-space with artwork on the tops of 500 yellow cabs throughout the month of January. Last year’s exhibition included work from Yoko Ono, Shirin Neshat and Alex Katz.

Here’s one of Wiley’s pieces.

And a Close close-up.