"Helio-Chronometer (Reloj Solar) Sundial"

produced & created by:

CITYarts

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in collaboration with

Artist:

Marina Gutierrez

Marina Guiterrez received her M.F.A from Vermont College and her B.F.A from Cooper Union. She is currently the Director of the Saturday Program at Cooper Union.

Architect:

James Cornejo

James Cornejo received his Bachelor of Architecture from Cooper Union. He is the sole proprietor of Insite Atelier (Architecture & Interior Design Firm) which is located in New York City.

About CITYarts:

CITYarts is New York City non-profit organization dedicated to transforming desolate and forgotten neighborhoods into vibrant public spaces by bringing children and professional artists together to create works of art that address important civic, educational and social issues.

Since its founding in 1968, CITYarts has engaged nearly 100,000 New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds in the process of designing and creating more than 250 murals, mosaics and sculptures.

Project Description:

As the sun travels the sky, a central indicator pole (gnomon) casts a moving shadow along an arc-like path. This shadow path varies from the longest Summer arc, to a middle path representing both Spring and Fall and the briefest arc of the Winter sun. Each of the three "Seasonal Arcs" are outlined on the wall in steel cable. Additional cables, radiating from the central pole, trace key hours. Six individual "Culture Arcs" are positioned at specific time points on each seasonal track. Each "Culture Arc" references distinct and in some cases overlapping cultural traditions and is made from ½" sheet aluminum, with a permanent (powder coated) color finish.

Concept:

To affirm cultural continuity and recall a connection to nature and science in the urban environment. Each "Culture Arc" contains symbolic and aesthetic elements reflecting the

ebb and flow of migration in the local East Harlem population. With these references we hope to create a visual metaphor connecting the movements of peoples and cultures with the movement of sun and earth.

Inti-huantana, the Native American Quiche word for sun dial, literally translated as "sun anchor". The events of 9/11 have shaken our sense of continuity and permanence. With the Helio-chronometer we aspire to anchor the present to our diverse and collective heritage.

Culture Arcs:

1). *Pre-Columbian motif with Mexican "papel picado" style arc*
Referencing the ubiquitous popular cut paper art form used for public decorations and decorative flags.

2). *Hip hop arrow & Graphic arc*
This arc reflects the dynamic energy of new graphic forms from graffiti to design.

3). *Andean textile snake with Mimbres pottery motif arc*
Combines pre-conquest indigenous motifs from north & South America)

4). *Coqui frog with sugar cane arc*
The iconic symbol of Puerto Rico is paired with an emblem of the agricultural cash crop that fueled the colonial economy of the "new world."

5). *Rooster with palm frond arc*
An arc of tropical palm accompanies a Chinese cut paper style rooster representing sunrise. The rooster symbol occurs across cultures from the African Diaspora to Eastern European.

6). *Egyptian eye with African arc of Indinkra symbols*
The shadow of an Egyptian eye falls across an arc of combined indinkra symbols representing learning from history & freedom from bondage.