ONE HEART FROM MANY

Times Square is the heart of the city, and BanG’s project is the heart of Times Square. Like the city itself, it is the product of many individual hearts coming together to form a greater whole. Each of the hearts is different; they vary in shape, size, and texture. At center of each heart is a light: an inner glow connected back to the center.

Like all New Yorkers the hearts are never quite at rest. They twinkle, flickering on and off like stars looking for their big break. When visitors approach it’s their chance to shine. When you get close, the nearest heart lights up, and when it lights up so does its neighbor, and its neighbor, and its neighbor...

Throughout the month of February Times Square will be electric with the chance encounters of many hearts coming together. For more information, see: www.b-an-g.com
HEARTIFACTS proposes a series of eight sculptural fragments that together create the figure of a heart from different views in and around Duffy Square. The installation encourages interaction both from a distance and up close, by groups and individuals, and is perceived differently from all sides. In contrast to past Times Square Hearts which featured a single object, we propose a field of HEARTIFACTS that operates at multiple scales and from multiple points of view. At three critical moments, the complete figure of a heart is revealed creating a dynamic treasure hunt that engages the visitor beyond a single photo opportunity.
HEAD OVER HEELS & MURMURS OF THE HEART

Head Over Heels recalls the best and sometimes most confusing parts of falling in love: incompatible opposites, wonderful dizziness, reflective disorientation and surprise. As in any romance, the view from outside is different from that within. This installation at the heart of the city represents and mirrors those contrasting experiences and is necessarily a two-sided object. Hidden beneath its “skin” are auditory surprises, the Murmurs of the Heart.

The inside is concave, private, singular, spherically perfect, and polished.

The optical properties of the southern concave face – the “selfie side” – create a plane of visual inversion, in front of which the viewer is quite literally flipped head over heels. As an intensely individual experience, a single and focused beam of sound is also produced with a hypersonic directional speaker at the base of the metal frame. A song, a whisper, or even a marriage proposal can be broadcast to a single person standing at exactly the right spot in front of the mirror, but remains inaudible to all others outside its range.

The outside is the opposite: convex, public, multitudinous, chaotic, refracted and complexly faceted.

On the north face, love is at its most public: confusing and sometimes fragmented – the facets reflect the many faces of visitors, images and colors of Times Square – in every direction outward, to the city and world beyond. This refraction of image is reinforced through a multiplicity of whispering panels. Fifteen of the acrylic panels are fitted with surface transducers, resonating periodically with the sounds of different pre-recorded messages: “te amo, wo ai ni, I love you.” Visitors drawn by the reflection will discover the whispered messages, like Pyramus and Thisbe listening at the crack of a wall, sharing the intimacy of a whisper and the secrets of love.
For centuries, the ideographic heart shape has symbolized love and affection, its graphic simplicity and recognizable shape is known to almost everyone. Transported from the digital world to Times Square, the Pixel Heart lands in the vibrant city center as a “scaled up” icon appropriate to its context. The “scaling up” pixelates the heart into an object that is both present and recognizable, yet slightly altered. The heart becomes an accidental participant whose presence in Times Square records the anonymous and collective affections of the public, as if caught by accident in the middle, fluttering as it interacts with the public.