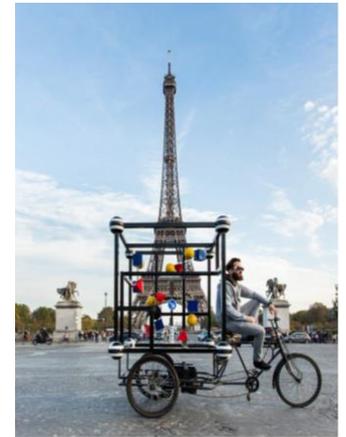


“M2B, Beijing-New York,” by Niko de la Faye

Traveling all the way from China, the mobile bike sculpture titled, *M2B, Beijing-New York*, will be peddled by French-artist and creator Niko de la Faye up the Citi Summer Streets route. Fabricated out of a traditional Chinese tricycle and a box skeleton adorned with colored orbs, the artwork will travel northbound on the route starting at the Foley Square Rest Stop making three thirty minute stops along the way. The first pop-up installation will be held at 10 am outside Collect Pond Park at Lafayette Street and Leonard Street, the second at 11 am within Pershing Square at Park Avenue between 41st Street and 42nd Street and the third and final exhibit at 12 pm outside of the entrance to Central Park at East 72nd Street and 5th Avenue. At each location, the artist will share footage, of past journeys, both stills and film, of M2B.



The sculpture, fabricated and designed by Niko, depicts an abstract representation of the balance and geometry of the cosmos in the universe. Cubic in nature, the structure references the “Theory of Everything,” a hypothetical, all-inclusive, theoretical framework of physics that explains and links all physical



aspects of the universe, produced by American Physicist Anthony Garrett Lisi. *M2B* visually uses the framework of the “universe” and the mobility of the tricycle to “link” to all physical aspects of the universe or in this case, Citi Summer Streets specifically. In addition, Citi Summer Streets participants will be the first to experience a sound component incorporated within the kinetic sculpture. Recorded sounds, including: car horns, traffic and human conversations, gathered during *M2B*’s journey across China, will play from speakers placed underneath the structure. By incorporating the sounds of China, Niko celebrates the installation’s birth place and its’ connection to China

both in the form of the tricycle and the recorded sounds.

In 2013, the artwork celebrated its first anniversary by traveling 2,100 miles from Beijing to Hong Kong. In 2014, *M2B* was invited by the city of Paris to participate in the 50th anniversary of cultural diplomacy between France and China during the YIA Contemporary Art Fair. This year, Citi Summer Streets presents *M2B* as a celebration of cultural exchange and a new way of activating the streets.

Artist Bio:

Niko de la Faye was born in Brest, France in 1978. He lives and works in Beijing. A self-taught artist, Niko works with a large variety of tools and materials to create photographs, kinetic sculptures, costumes, installations, videos and performances. His inspiration and research is organized along two axes: body and geometry, and movement and space. He creates instinctively, and the foundations of his work lie in collaboration and encounters with people he meets and environments in which he finds himself living and working. Niko’s fascination with movement and space led him to create kinetic sculptures that he views as a moving interpretation of reality. He believes that artistic mechanisms, “should be able to grasp the essence of a place, person or idea to the same degree that a photograph does.” His first pieces were exhibited in LLP and at the Sylvia Rhud Gallery. In 2007, he embarked upon *Visages*, an artistic reflection on faces and landscapes through the medium of body painting and photography.

Life in China was the inspiration for Niko’s *M2B* project. He relocated to Beijing to create this piece and presented it at numerous events including the Art Beijing, the French Festival Croisements, Beijing Design Week and Caochangdi Photospring Festival. Niko continues to expand his portfolio and his creative vision through sculpture, photography and performance in collaboration with both local and international artists.

Photo Credit: Vinciane Verguethen and Raphaël Fournier

