



Image from video “I Wander the Forest in Search of Mystery” by Aaron Pexa

### **Cade Tompkins Projects and ZAZ10TS Present Aaron Pexa: Garden Party Art Installation Featuring Neon Sculpture, Video and Wallpaper**

A new art installation by American artist [Aaron Pexa](#), *Garden Party* interprets a modern garden theme with original multimedia artwork featuring flowers, birds and nature. Presented jointly by [Cade Tompkins Projects](#) and [ZAZ10TS](#), the free public exhibition opens on March 5<sup>th</sup> and runs through May 25<sup>th</sup> at the ZAZ10TS lobby gallery located at 10 Times Square. *Garden Party* transforms the interior of the building’s lobby with neon and LED light sculptures as a nod to Times Square’s history of neon signage, accompanied by bright wallpapers, video and a large format print.

The long corridor of the lobby gallery includes a colorful floral Poppy wallpaper and video still artwork. Further down the corridor is a gold LED sculpture of a bird in flight layered over another colorful wallpaper entitled Garden Party, creating a stunning visual display. In the elevator bank, a black and white wallpaper and large scale collagraph in a silver leaf Rococo frame are illuminated by the Neon Poppy sculpture, all of which is repositioning how viewers experience color, light, and pattern.

Aaron Pexa’s video “I Wander the Forest in Search of Mystery” will run on a continuous loop. In it, a chandelier slowly twirls in a forest by a lake. The optic qualities of the cut crystal are activated by sunlight and enhanced by pastel atmospheres that move through the frame. The video highlights the incandescence of light and the reflective effect of glass as fleeting moments that create a fictional romantic history. The video is accompanied by a commissioned sound element created by artist Maralie, the fifth collaborative work with Aaron Pexa.



The video can also be viewed by the public as it runs on “ZAZ Corner,” a new LED billboard gallery showcasing digital artwork outside the building at the corner of 41<sup>st</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

“Times Square is famous for its sensational signage, evolving from neon-covered facades in the 1920s, to the modern day 25-story LED display. Through the many evolutions of this crossroads, it has always offered visitors a type of visual overstimulation with its over-the-top lights and advertisements. With this history in mind, the exhibition offers a respite from the flashing, quick-cut editing of the surrounding images. The video’s tranquil movements offer a calm counterpoint to the saturated, sumptuous commercial displays and the hustle of New York City,” says Cade Tompkins, representing Aaron Pexa.

“We are excited to share this talented artist and unique exhibit that reflects the Times Square neighborhood” says Tzili Charney, founder of ZAZ10TS. “Aaron Pexa’s artwork brings beauty and nature to the building for all to enjoy.”

ZAZ10TS is an ongoing cultural initiative that integrates art into the office building at 10 Times Square. For more information, please visit: <https://www.zaz10ts.com/garden-party>

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### **About Aaron Pexa**

[Aaron Pexa](#) is an American artist and architect whose work manifests curiosity and a sense of bewilderment through projection, optics and appropriated antique objects. His multimedia works and video fracture and reframe everyday environments through the creation of artifacts, sleight of hand actions, and experimental operations. The video work, in particular, captures and manipulates a series of fleeting moments, framing a fantastical narrative while documenting the process by which artifacts are produced. Pexa received his MFA in Glass from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2014. He also holds a dual Masters in Architecture and Urban Design from Washington University in Saint Louis, and Bachelors in Studio Art from Carleton College. Prior to studying glass at RISD, Aaron worked as an architect and urban designer in London and New Orleans. In the fall of 2018, Pexa was awarded a prestigious artist residency at the Corning Museum of Glass in New York. In the summer of 2014, he received a travel grant to research glassmaking techniques along Finland’s *Glass Trail* as well as a Chinese Government Scholarship at the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou to study Mandarin and promote cross-cultural exchange. He was a 2015 and 2019 Fellow at the Creative Glass Center of America at Wheaton Arts in Millville, New Jersey. *The Lucent Parlor* videos are in the permanent collection of the Ringing Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida and the Musuem of American Glass in New Jersey. *I Wander the Forest in Search of Mystery* will be part of the permanent collection of the Museum of American Glass in Millville, NJ.

### **About [Cade Tompkins Projects](#)**

Cade Tompkins’ focus is contemporary art, featuring work by emerging artists as well as mid-career



and established artist in various mediums including painting, sculpture, video drawing, installation, printmaking and photography. Cade Tompkins' clients range from major museums to new collectors as well as corporate collections, hospitals and seasoned art connoisseurs. Cade Tompkins is interested in finding art for clients at all levels of collecting. Cade Tompkins has been contemporary art dealer for over 30 years. Her gallery opened in September, 2009 and to date has featured over 45 exhibitions by represented artists. Tompkins graduated from the Appraisal Studies in Art Program at The Rhode Island School of Design. Cade Tompkins Projects has exhibited gallery artists in Master Drawings New York 2017 and 2020; Art in an Airstream during the IFPDA Print Fair 2016, SPRING/BREAK Art Show (2016-2020), E/AB Fair (2006-2013). Cade Tompkins is a member of the International Fine Print Dealers Association (IFPDA) and a member of ArtTable, the national professional organization advancing leadership of women in the visual arts.

### **About [ZAZ10TS](#)**

ZAZ10TS is an ongoing cultural initiative that integrates art into the office building at 10 Times Square. Conceived by Tzili Charney, the ZAZ10TS gallery space employs the building's façade, lobby interior, and immediate environment to bring art and culture to the building's community, visitors, and passersby. ZAZ10TS takes pride in scouting and showcasing the gamut of talent ranging from established artists to young and emerging talent, as well as special needs artists, as part of its programming. In addition, ZAZ10TS partners with other organizations nationally and internationally to support art.

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