



ZAZ10TS PRESENTS *I WISH I HAD A RIVER*
***The Underground Lobby Garden* by Keren Anavy and curated by Lauren Powell**

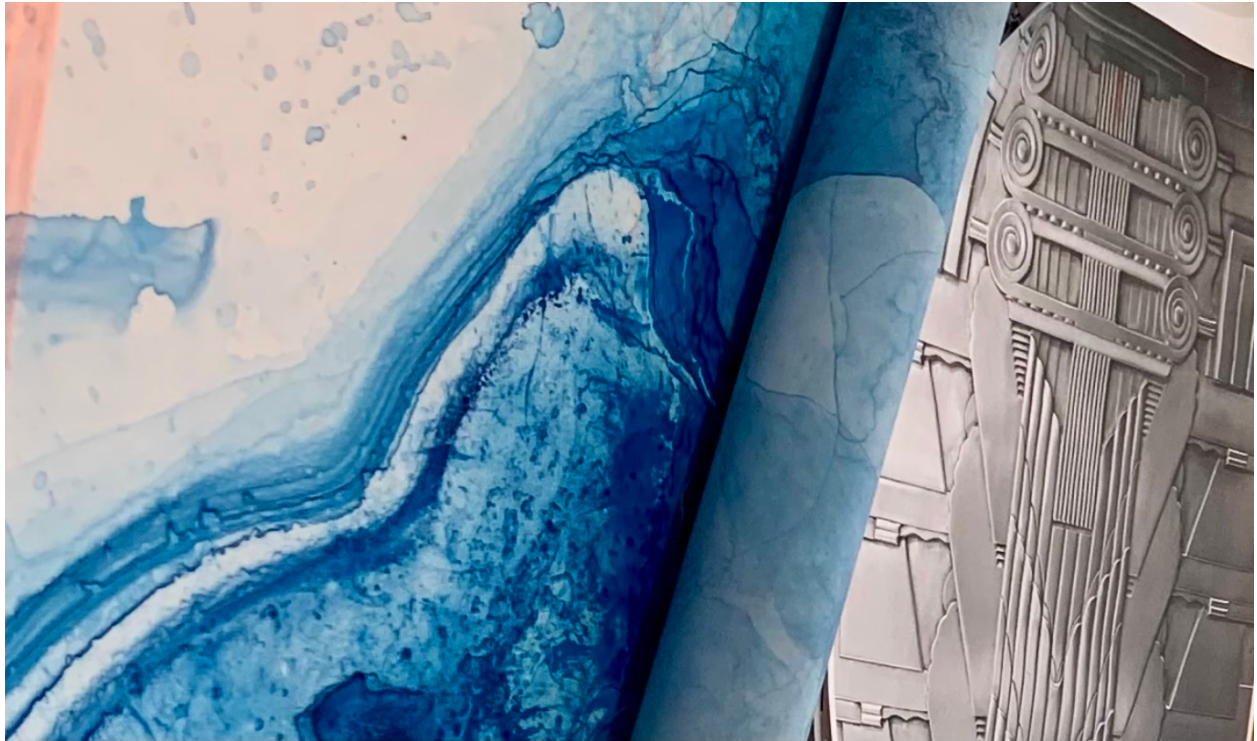


Image Courtesy of the artist

[ZAZ10TS](#) gallery is pleased to present the site-specific multi-media installation [I Wish I Had a River](#) by artist Keren Anavy and curated by Lauren Powell. *I Wish I Had a River* creates a painted garden within the confines of the lobby of 10 Times Square and will be on display from May 5th to August 31st.

"The Underground Lobby Garden", as the artist calls it, is composed of paintings, drawings, laser cutouts, sculpture forms, and video projection. The artificial garden installation honors the original footprint as the city's once major water source and celebrates the original architectural features of the building. Completed in 1930 as the Bricken Textile Building, the edifice was the center of the bustling garment district, dressed head to toe in Art Deco lines, patterns and adornments. Merely 40 years before its completion, New York's biggest reservoir and supplier of all of Manhattan's drinking water in the 19th century was decommissioned and torn down one avenue to the East.

This relationship between nature, particularly water, functioning as a cultural agent and an important element of consumerism is of particular importance for Anavy, who grew up in a desert region of conflict, where the resource was always scarce. The artworks are created through a process of dripping ink on submerged Mylar which requires the artist to relinquish control of the pigment to her water substrate for an unpredictable result that only nature can determine. Anavy's paintings rely on water in the same way as the garden that the installation depicts. Without water, there is no life, this exhibition explores how those two elements intertwine and work together to hold memories, build gardens and shape our cities.

The exhibition also features *I Wish I Had a River*, a video based on Anavy's ink and colored pencil paintings on transparent Mylar and video footage she took at water channels in New York. It will be featured on ZAZ Corner's [In Between](#) Programming, where the artwork is displayed for 15 seconds at a time on a large LED billboard in the heart of Times Square, all throughout May.

"I see nature as a powerful tool to scrutinize issues of the dynamic relationships between nature, culture and sites. The idea for *I Wish I Had a River* has evolved following my interest in the connection between water and specific sites in New York City, which was built around water, as the New York Public Library, at the corner of West 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue stands atop the foundation stones of what use to be Murray Hill Reservoir. The exhibition turns the lobby space into an artificial pocket of nature in the heart of the island of Manhattan, and therefore ZAZ10TS is the perfect site for this exhibition" says Keren Anavy.

"We are excited to open up slowly to have more visitors coming to the ZAZ10TS Gallery" says Tzili Charney, founder of ZAZ10TS. "And I love this site specific exhibition featuring water and nature, it feels right for the building and Times Square neighborhood now."

About Keren Anavy

Keren Anavy (b. Israel) is a New York-based multimedia visual artist, working in drawing, painting, installation, and performance. She is a new member of The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, the EFA Studio Program, New York City. Anavy was selected to be Guild House Artist-in-Residence in 2021 at Guild Hall of East Hampton, New York and at Marble House Project, Dorset, Vermont, where she will continue to create and explore water and garden-related issues. www.kerenanavy.com

About Lauren Powell

Lauren Powell (Detroit, MI, b. 1984) is a curator, art advisor, and contemporary art enthusiast who is deeply involved in both the NYC and LA art communities. Lauren has curated shows at Postmasters Gallery, Eve Leibe Gallery, Spring/Break Art Shows, and Chelsea Market. laurenpowellart.com

About ZAZ10TS Gallery

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. ZAZ10TS also partners with other organizations nationally and internationally to support art. www.zaz10ts.com

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