NYC Tunnel Transformed Into An Interactive, Voice-Activated Light Show

By Dorothy Tan, 05 Aug 2013

As part of New York City’s annual event “Summer Streets”, where it celebrates its most important public spaces, Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer has created a special installation in the famous Park Avenue Tunnel.

By placing 300 theatrical spotlights along the archway and walls of the tunnel, he was able to transform the 1,400-foot long tunnel into an interactive, voice-activated light show.

Participants of this installation can speak into a special intercom at the center of the tunnel, which will then translate their voices into unique light shows—the higher the pitch and volume, the more intense the light beams.

150 loudspeakers are also installed throughout the tunnel and will be playing back the voices of past participants in quiet whispers, symbolizing the tunnel’s little memories.

This signature event of “Summer Streets” will run for three Saturdays in August 2013—3, 10 and 17 August—from 7AM to 1PM, so check it out while you still can.