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## NEW SCULPTURE IN LONG ISLAND CITY LEAVES MANY 'MYSTIFIED'

By Tanya Klich

*The Long Island City waterfront has a new temporary addition. It's a piece of art that changes colors to reflect the ever-changing value of gold. NY1's Tanya Klich filed the following report.*

A new sculpture in Long Island City is leaving many "mystified."

"Originally when I saw this, I thought it was going to be some actual mist, or water that was going to cool off my dog," said Janet Waddell of Long Island City.

"We still don't really know what it is," said Shane Willis, a tourist from Ireland.

Those strolling through Hunter's Point South Park this summer can chill-out with a cold beer, lemonade, or a new public art installation titled "Meridian (Gold)."

Artist Mika Tajima spent two months creating the piece. But beneath this art structure and its puffs of colorful steam, are computers tracking global markets around the world.

"It's really linked to different geopolitical events that occur, and of course how secure the world is financially," said Tajima.

Financial data from the program prompts LED lights to shine different colors, with each shade representing real-time changes in the value of gold.

Pink means gold prices are up. Blue means gold is down.

"It's a peculiar commodity that is about public sentiment. Rather than it being linked to supply and demand, it's more about people's confidence and uncertainty in the world," said Tajima.

Tajima says the artwork's background is equally symbolic.

"Facing this financial capital and Midtown Manhattan as a backdrop, I hope people sit and think about the 'materiality' of our lives," she said.

The art was selected by a group of high schoolers studying public art at SculptureCenter, an arts institution in Long Island City.

"To provide an amenity, it's another way to enjoy the park and the view of the city but it also gives them a little bit to think about while they're doing so," said Mary Ceruti, executive director at SculptureCenter.

In addition to sparking conversations about global finance and psychology, Tajima also welcomes viewers to step into her sculpture, and enjoy the cool, calming mist.



"I might not really understand the full depth of the meaning, but I definitely enjoy the mist on a hot day," said Meg Davidson, a Brooklyn resident who works nearby.

"It's a wonderful place to sit on a hot summer day," said Bill Stelzenmuller, of North Carolina, who was touring the park with his wife. "It's very cooling, that little spray that comes off of there."

Meridian Gold is on display through September, giving park-goers the whole summer to cool-off with art.