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Inside Art

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Times Square Serenity

Times Square may be one of the world's most chaotic crossroads, but the South Korean-born artist Kim-sooja hopes to transform visitors into a state of spiritual serenity.

From March 10 to June 10, "Conditions of Anonymity," one-minute segments taken from three of her previous video works — "A Needle Woman (Kitakyushu)," "A Beggar Woman (Cairo)" and "A Laundry Woman (Yamuna River, India)" — will be shown on the Astrovision screen in Times Square 15 times a day. In each video, the artist sits, reclines or stands totally still with her back to the viewer.

The project has been organized by Creative Time, a nonprofit organization that presents public art around the city, as part of its "59th Minute," a five-year series of video projects by artists ranging from William Wegman to Thomas Struth.

"We were looking for work that can be read without signs," said Maureen Sullivan, director of external affairs for Creative Time. For the first time since the series began, the project is popping off the screen and into the streets. On March 11 from 2 to 3 p.m., 40 performers will imitate Ms. Kim in "Beggar Woman," standing with their hands outstretched. "They will be spread around Times Square with their hands in a begging gesture, not accepting anything," Ms. Sullivan said. During the performance, the three videos will run continuously.