

## DANCING IN TIMES SQUARE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

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**Time Square, NY:** On 46th Street, the heart of Times Square, a peaceful and serene improvisational dance took place in the busiest part of Manhattan, full of tourists, commuters and oversized cartoon characters roaming the streets - who all stopped to watch what was occurring around them: Sara.

Sara Roer is a solo improvisation performer who showed her piece **Zeitegeber**, German for time giver, and pulled in the curiosity of people who stopped to look at her beautiful movements.

Sara created her piece to open awareness to surroundings, and draw her audience to be more aware of the sky and how our natural rhythms are **affected by natural and artificial light**, especially in an urban setting. She sat on a stool in the middle of Times Square and moved to four artificial lights surrounding her. The props were a great deal for her piece. Two of the lights had a moon drawn on them, while the other two had suns drawn on them. This is to represent that somewhere there is a moonrise happening, and elsewhere there is a sunrise happening.

"Artificial light has become sort of a stand in for natural light," said Sara. "So we don't really have that connection as deeply as some of our ancestors probably did."

She feels that people tend to forget to connect with one of the most powerful external events, **natural light, especially in an urban setting.**

Sara is from North Carolina, but lived in New York for about 8 years, so she chose one of the busiest parts of Manhattan to draw attention to her intuition with her natural rhythms and to bring awareness to the climate change as well. The location is ideal for this performance because it is hard to look up and see a vast amount of natural light with the skyscrapers surrounding you, and the horizon is not easily locatable. Sara teamed up with the not for profit organization, **The Human Impact Institute** who joined her at the performance to reach out to the public and bring awareness to the environment and how the arts can change the environment. She found this organization and The Climate Group from attending a seminar about climate change in Germany.

I found this piece to be a fascinating way of connecting the arts and the environment. The idea, the time and location, and most importantly the impact of the piece that I saw in the eyes of her viewers were nothing but on point. Sara's execution was everything she hoped for, curious and enlightening to her onlookers.

*By Courtney Norris*

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