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Summer Streets Installation 'Dive,' by Jana Winderen, Takes Park Avenue Tunnel Undersea

'You Feel That You Go In and Then Down Into Something'

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By **ANDY BATTAGLIA**

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Jana Winderen's sound installation, 'Dive,' in the Park Avenue Tunnel. *Jana Winderen*

On Saturday, the Park Avenue Tunnel closes to vehicular traffic and fills with the sounds of the sea.

As part of the city's Summer Streets program, the Norwegian artist Jana Winderen has created "Dive," an installation that immerses pedestrians in the sounds of lapping waves, clicking fish and whirring boats as they walk through the tunnel, which spans 33rd to 40th streets.

Ms. Winderen, who lives and works in Oslo, was drawn to the subterranean site.

Dive

An audio sample of what Jana Winderen's installation 'Dive' sounds like.

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Jana Winderen

"It was like diving underground," she said. "You feel that you go in and then down into something."

To begin the journey, pedestrians enter at the south end of the tunnel, which hosts the installation from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday and Aug. 16.

The focus of Ms. Winderen's work is undersea sound, and she has traveled to

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Greenland, Iceland, Sweden, Poland, Thailand, England and the Caribbean to take field recordings of marine life. The sounds in "Dive" include those made by cod, whales, toadfish and seaborne insects, which she recorded with underwater microphones, or hydrophones, on her trips.



Ms. Winderen used sounds recorded from underwater environments in Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Canada, Thailand, and around the equator in the Caribbean and the Pacific to create 'Dive.' *Stephen Mallon/NYCDOT*

"I'll never forget my first wild cod," she said, comparing the fish's mating sounds to grunting. Other favorites include backswimmers, tiny water bugs that swim upside down and create cricket-like sounds with stridulation, or rubbing body parts together.

The sounds are broadcast from 64 speakers for "3-D spatial sound" in the tunnel, with compositional thought given to their placement.

"It's like a story unfolds as you go through," said J.G. Thirlwell, a musician and fellow sound artist who visited "Dive" last Saturday, when it opened. "It's very dramatic. My favorite are shrimp and krill and sea insects that make these crunchy and clicky sounds."

Man-made sounds figure in too, including boat noise from the Arctic Ocean and tones from seal-scarer audio devices used by Scottish salmon farmers. All such sounds are part of a teeming marine life that too often goes unnoticed, Ms. Winderen said.

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underwater environment," the 49-year-old artist said. "Fish, crustaceans, whales and more than we know are using sounds so actively. I've always been interested in the water, and finding out that we can use a new sense can maybe heighten the curiosity of people."

Emily Colasacco, director of public art for New York City's Department of Transportation, first encountered Ms. Winderen's work last year at the [Museum of Modern Art's inaugural sound-art exhibition](#) and devised a way of including it in Summer Streets.

"We wanted to think differently about the public realm and elements of surprise and discovery, what you can find if you listen just a little bit closer," Ms. Colasacco said.

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Ms. Winderen records crustaceans in Hamarøy, Norway. *Jana Winderen*

The installation is one of a handful of sound-based works in this year's program, including a concert of brass music inspired by the sculptor Richard Serra at 26 Federal Plaza, and a performance piece at Astor Place involving boomboxes playing the Frank Sinatra song "My Way."

Part of the premise of "Dive" is to transform an everyday part of the city's infrastructure. "It's sort of this magical moment when you question, how is this possible?" Ms. Colasacco said.

To suit the setting, Ms. Winderen made a point of including local marine life in the mix.

"There are sounds from underwater New York in this composition," she said. "It's from an unidentified fish. I'm not really sure what it is. Something from the East River."

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