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Arts, Briefly

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A Video Installation for MoMA

The artist Doug Aitken will use the Museum of Modern Art's exterior as his canvas this winter, projecting a site-specific multiscreen video for the 53rd and 54th Street facades as well as those overlooking the sculpture garden. Inspired by the dense urban grid of Midtown, the video is Mr. Aitken's first public art project in the United States. It will be shown from Jan. 16 to Feb. 12 from 5 to 10 p.m. and was commissioned by the Modern in collaboration with the nonprofit group Creative Time, which presents art around the city. "We wanted to do something to say thank you to New York for all the help we got during our expansion," Glenn D. Lowry, director of the MoMA, said. The museum reopened in November 2004 after the completion of an \$858 million addition designed by Yoshio Taniguchi. "This multiscreen video is a story about New York at night," Mr. Lowry said. "It's very poetic and extremely engaging." The art project was detailed yesterday at a news conference at which Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the results of a study projecting that MoMA would inject \$2 billion into the city economy during a three-year period beginning in mid-2004. CAROL VOGEL