# Interactive 'Portal' Art Installation Connects Dublin and New York in Real-Time



On May 8, 2024, an interactive art installation called "portal" was launched, connecting Dublin, Ireland, with New York, USA. This installation features 8-foot-wide screens and webcams in both cities, facilitating visual but non-verbal interactions between people 3,000 miles apart. The New York portal is located at the intersection of Broadway, Fifth Avenue, and 23rd Street, while Dublin's counterpart is positioned on North Earl Street at the corner with O’Connell Street.

Despite prevailing bad weather in Dublin, many gathered to engage with the portal, cheering and waving at individuals in New York, such as a man on a bike and a woman walking her dog. Dublin’s Lord Mayor, Daithí de Róiste, and New York's chief public realm officer, Ya-Ting Liu, praised the installation for connecting two global cities in real-time, encouraging cultural exchanges and fostering goodwill.

However, not all interactions have been positive. Instances of inappropriate behavior, including flashing and offensive imagery, have been reported at the Dublin location. The installation is being monitored, and provocative behavior has occasionally required police intervention.

Designed by Lithuanian artist Benediktas Gylys, the project is expected to run through autumn 2024. This installation follows similar projects like the 2021 portal connecting Vilnius and Lublin, and the 2008 Telectroscope linking London and New York. Despite mixed reactions, the portals continue to draw curiosity and engagement from both locals and tourists in Dublin and New York.