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Top 100 Treasures

New York Minute

It's not often that a private patron pays \$2 million to commission a public artwork. But such is the case with Stephen Ross and The Related Companies, who in planning their new tower overlooking New York City's Union Square, decided to integrate a highly visible public artwork into its design. Working with the Public Art Fund, they invited ideas from half a dozen artists, Frank Stella and Matt Mullican among them. Last winter the group settled on the proposal of Jones & Ginzel, a well-known kinetic art team. Jones & Ginzel's work features a high-tech, celestial-themed clock that rises eight stories. The clock (above) will document time in several unusual ways

and will emit a burst of steam at noon each day. "I'd say it's the most prominent commission of a public artwork in New York City since the Statue of Liberty," says Tom Eccles, director of the Public Art Fund. "It really is unprecedented that a private commission has such public resonance. New Yorkers will mark time by this work." Pun presumably intended. The clock is already ticking on the project, which is due to be completed in September. Public Art Fund