



# LONDON, JAPAN, NEW YORK AND NOW **AMHERST, MA!**

**Would you use this see-through toilet?!**

*Despite appearances, these trans-loocent public toilets are not made to be voyeuristic.*

## **London, United Kingdom**

First Debuting in 2004, Far from testing the viewers' levels of embarrassment versus exhibitionism, the artist, Italian-born Monica Bonvicini, conceived of the idea while watching people at art openings. Amid the gossip and pageantry, nobody wanted to leave the room for fear of missing a key entrance or comment. The "Don't Miss A Sec" exhibit -- which was unveiled in December -- reflects peoples' reluctance to leave the spectacle, and allows the art-goer to remain in the action, even while on the toilet.



## **New York City, USA**

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to mark World Toilet Day, the Global Poverty Project brought a "see-through toilet" to Washington Square Park in New York City, courtesy of Unilever/Domestos. New Yorkers experienced what it is like for the 2.4 billion people who don't have access to a basic toilet, and the almost 1 billion who are forced to defecate in the open. World Toilet Day is an official United Nations international observance day on 19 November to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. Worldwide, 4.5 billion people live without "safely managed sanitation".



## **Tokyo, Japan**

August 2020, The Tokyo Toilet Project installed restrooms at two parks in Tokyo's Shibuya neighborhood. The colored-glass washrooms are cleverly designed to be transparent when unoccupied — so potential users can confirm they're empty and clean — but turn opaque once the door is locked internally.

"There are two things we worry about when entering a public restroom, especially those located at a park. The first is cleanliness, and the second is whether anyone is inside," wrote the restroom's creator, Pritzker prize-winning architect and Tokyo native Shigeru Ban, on the Toilet Project's website.

