

SEAN KELLY

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Rio 2016: Glowing ring appears over Brazil ahead of Olympic Games



(CNN)Away from the competition and controversy of the 2016 Rio Olympics, Japanese artist Mariko Mori has made a quiet statement in Brazil.

Atop the 190-foot Vêu da Noiva waterfall in Mangaratiba (a municipality on the outskirts of the state of Rio de Janeiro), her prismatic "Ring: One With Nature" -- a 10-foot acrylic ring, supported by a Teflon-coated stainless steel -- appears suspended in air.

Through a trick of the light, it seems to change hue -- blue, gold, transparent -- depending on the position of the sun and viewer.

"The Olympic game logo, the symbolic logo is five rings symbolizing the unification of all nations and ethnicities, and celebrating peace," Mori said in her London studio ahead of August 2 unveiling ceremony.

"I wanted to add a new ring with which to symbolize the connection between humans and nature."

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Created as part of the Rio Olympics' Celebra Cultural Program through her nonprofit, the Faou Foundation, the "Ring" is the second in a series of six permanent site-specific artworks meant to provide "lasting testimony to the natural beauty of its surroundings," according to the foundation's website.

"Each time of the day, it will reflect the beauty of nature," Mori says.