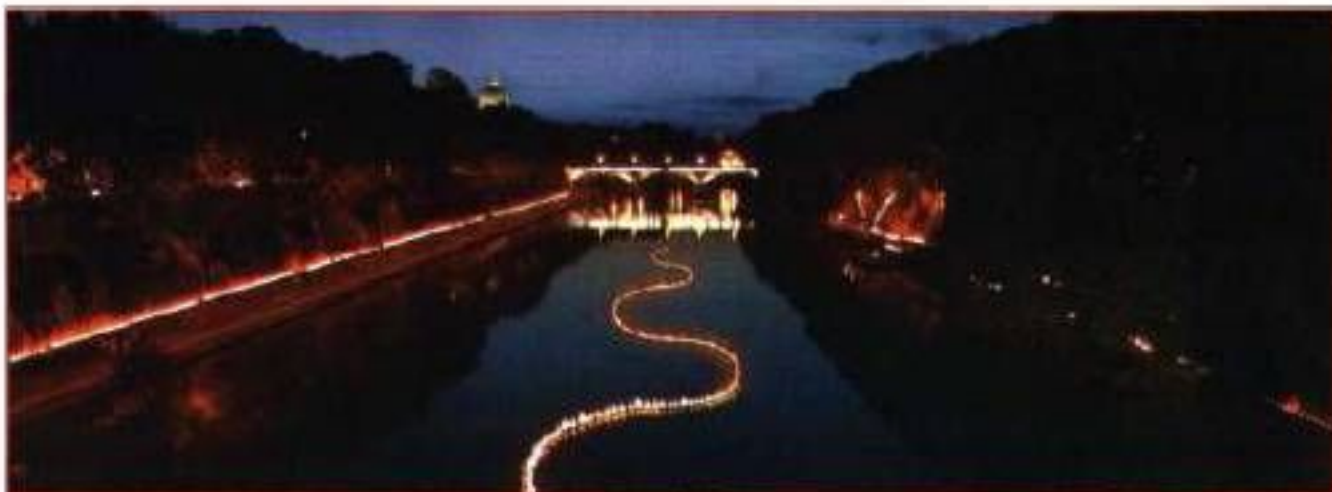




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When in Rome... light 3000 candles

Rome's Tiber River will look pretty much like this at the end of next week thanks to the work of Victoria University lecturer Daniel Brown and co-artist Kristin Jones from New York.

The pair were commissioned to create an installation for the city's midsummer solstice festival and, with the help of 300 students, will float a chain of 1000 candles down the centre of the river and display the remaining 2000 on the river's banks on June 22.

The installation will burn from sunset to midnight between the Sisto and Mazzini bridges to the accompaniment of contemporary percussion compositions and electro-acoustic sounds.

"The candles are the same style used 2000 years ago in ancient Rome and made using the same traditional processes. The wicks are quite thick and once they are lit they are virtually impossible to extinguish. But lighting each one with a traditional match or lighter can take up to 15 minutes per candle. For this reason, we have approached the City of Rome water police and fire department. They are donating boats and expertise to help light the candles using special torches while they are positioned in the river. I think the police and firemen are even more excited than we are!"

Pictured is a digital representation of the installation.