



NEWS

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

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MTA INVITES PUBLIC TO ENJOY ITS RAIL STATION ART PROJECTS VIA FREE SUNDAY TOURS

The word '*subway*' doesn't immediately conjure up images of giant murals, fish aquariums or flying sculptures. Rail trains belong to our objective world of steel, schedules, and time, not the subjective, imaginative side of life.

Yet every day throughout L.A. County MTA customers are 'moved' not only by buses and trains but also by art. Projects designed especially for Metro's Rail by some of the nation's finest artists are located throughout MTA stations with the aim of creating a more positive environment and enlivening this functional world.

MTA is now inviting the public of all ages to learn more about these art projects by taking a free guided tour the last Sunday of every month. Tours depart at 10 a.m. and different themes and rail stations are featured each month.

Metro Art involves artists in a variety of permanent and temporary projects throughout the Metro System with the objective of making transit more friendly to commuters and neighborhoods. Artists are selected by panels which include art professionals and community members. To date, more than 175 artists have been commissioned by the MTA for projects at Metro Rail and Metrolink stations, the Gateway Transit Center and the Metro Bus System.

"We are very proud of the work of these artists," said Maya Emsden,

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Director of Metro Art. "They have taken a public space and they have given it a human dimension. Their work helps to provide a friendly and welcoming environment for travelers."

Featured in the October, November and December tours are the two series of tile ceramic murals hand painted by Joyce Kozloff. Titled ***The Movies: Fantasies*** and ***The Movies: Spectacles***, the tiles resemble the unfolding of a film strip revealing the imagery from hundreds of films.

"This work is an affirmation of my love for film, and for the City of Los Angeles," said Kozloff. "The murals are dense with images from hundreds of movies, so that daily commuters can discover and enjoy them over time."

Jonathan Borofsky has sculpted six fiberglass figures, all resembling himself, which soar over the Civic Center Station casting large shadows in the high bay area. The work is titled ***I Dreamed I Could Fly***.

"I've had quite a few flying dreams in my lifetime," Borofsky said. "Many other people I've spoken to have had similar dreams. Sometimes I fly above it all, serene and rather enlightened...other times my flying dreams seem more like an escape from earthly concerns."

The Gateway Transit Center displays numerous art projects created in a wide range of mediums including ceramic, bronze, glass, as well as light, water and even fish.

City of Dreams/River of History is an environmentally themed work jointly created by artists May Sun, Richard Wyatt and Paul Diez which commemorates the history of the Transit Center. The work includes a "river" or paving elements, an aquarium populated with indigenous, coastal fish, and artifacts excavated from the site during its construction.

"In the wake of a series of natural and human disasters in the City of Los Angeles," said Sun, Wyatt and Diez, "we hope to contribute to a sense of

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reaffirmation in a city that becomes aware of its past, of the accomplishments of its present, and of the possibilities of its future – its dreams.”

As part of the same project, Union Station’s east portal also contains a 80-foot-long mural by Richard Wyatt depicting images of L.A. settlers as well as contemporary Los Angeles citizens. Wyatt also has designed two large 50-foot ceramic tile murals for the end walls of the Metro Red Line Wilshire/Western station titled *People Coming, People Going*.

“In today’s corporate world the human element seems often to get lost,” Wyatt explained. “I try to bring back the human connection by monumentalizing people rather than buildings and objects.”

Computer artist Bill Bell has installed twelve vertical “light sticks” producing varying patterns of light and images.

“Some will get it, some won’t,” state Bell. “But it doesn’t matter because it’s supposed to be fun.”

The MTA Headquarters Building contains a series of murals by artist James Doolin reflecting the scale and grandeur of Los Angeles, and the public transit systems.

“The murals examine and portray stages of growth in the urban giant we have created for ourselves since the time of our first railroad,” explained Doolin. “Like a huge, organic circuit board, the fourth mural speculates on some of our city’s challenges during our passage into the next century.”

Metro Art reflects MTA’s commitment to provide the people of Los Angeles with a public transit system which heightens the public awareness of the unique cultural and ethnic resources of the communities surrounding the stations.

For information about the location of the tours and the monthly theme, please call: (213) 922-4ART.