



NEWS

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METRO BLUE LINE'S FIRST STREET STATION IN LONG BEACH GETS "BREEZY AND DELIGHTFUL" NEW ARTWORK INSTALLED

Los Angeles artist Paul Tzanetopoulos has turned his lifelong fascination with the seemingly infinite variety of pattern in cultural artifacts into another unique addition to the collection of public art adorning MTA's Metro Blue Line stations.

The artist has taken textile designs ranging from Cambodian shadow puppet patterns to modern graphic geometry and transformed them into rotating, wind-driven sculptures mounted inside the round frames atop the pylons at the Blue Line's First Street Station.

Tzanetopoulos's work is the latest to be installed as part of MTA's Art for Rail Transit (A-R-T) program, which commissions local artists to create public art at rail facilities throughout the county.

"The originality of the art work that we're seeing truly makes the Blue Line stations something that each community can be proud of," said L.A. County Supervisor Deane Dana, an MTA Board member. "Communities served by the Green Line, which will open next year, can look forward to much the same kind of creativity."

"The A-R-T program has already brightened all of our Metro Red Line subway stations with innovative artwork," said Franklin White, MTA's Chief Executive Officer. "It's truly a pleasure to anticipate each new project as they are installed along the routes."

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Tzanetopoulos has titled his creation "Breezy and Delightful." Each sculpture consists of a pair of counter-rotating disks that are set in motion by the daily sea breeze.

"The title was taken from early publicity done for the City of Long Beach that was originally meant to illustrate the city's pleasant weather and cheerful attitude on the California coast," Tzanetopoulos said. "I thought that this phrase reflected both the city and site of this station. On each of my frequent visits to the station, it has always been a beautiful, breezy and pleasant day."

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