



# NEWS

March 18, 1996

CONTACT: MARY ANN MASKERY/  
JIM SMART  
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS  
(213) 922-2736/922-2700

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ART TEAM COMPLETES PROJECT AT THE EAST PORTAL OF UNION STATION COMMEMORATING THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER: CITY OF DREAMS/RIVER OF HISTORY

Yes, there really was a Los Angeles River, one not encased in concrete and artificially diverted, a river that passed through the historic core of the region, weaving through the site of what is now Union Station.

Richard Wyatt, one of Los Angeles' most important muralists, worked with Paul Diez and May Sun on a multi-media installation, "City of Dreams/River of History," that evokes the varied culture of the river through history.

"Richard Wyatt's 80-foot mural is now finished and stands ready to greet visitors as they enter the East Portal of Union Station," said MTA Interim Chief Executive Officer Joseph Drew. "The mural portrays, in his realistic style, the many peoples that crossed the river at this site."

Shoshonean trails once marked the area, followed by the first settlement of the *pobladores*, later the original Chinatown, and finally the transportation center of modern Los Angeles.

Surrounding the mural of human portraits is a series of icons, a subtle reference to the flora and fauna of the region that were inspired by artist May Sun's work in the walkway below.

(MORE)

**EAST PORTAL ART COMPLETED, Page 2**

Sun used a variety of river-related imagery, including turtles, trout, sycamore and cattail leaves, as well as wagon wheels and other symbols of transportation in a conceptual 'river' of tile.

Continuing the artists' theme are several other elements, including an aquarium filled with indigenous fish where Wyatt has etched historical and contemporary figures in the glass. Nearby, water trickles atop the backside of a bench, passing over symbols of river life and pottery shards pulled from old Chinatown excavations.

"The artists have created a place where people can enjoy a moment of repose in this space even as they walk to their bus or train," Drew said. "At the same time, the artists are drawing our attention to the rich history of this particular area."

# # #