



NEWS

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ARTIST LYNN ALDRICH CREATES ILLUSION OF DESERT OASIS AT METRO BLUE LINE ARTESIA STATION

Lynn Aldrich's creation, titled "Blue Line Oasis," suggests the sense of a desert oasis and the human longings associated with wishing wells.

The work, which has now been installed at the Metro Blue Line Artesia Station in Compton, is the artist's response to the definition of the word, artesia: "...a place with a well where water rises to the surface from its own internal pressure."

The focus of "Blue Line Oasis" is a mosaic and stone wall located near the entrance to the station. The notion of the wishing well is further enhanced by steel and copper replicas of coins that appear to have been tossed in to make wishes.

The station area is landscaped with tall palm trees reminiscent of a desert oasis, and the well becomes a symbol of soothing refreshment, while also serving as a circular bench for transit patrons.

Underfoot, a blue serpentine walk, marked with poetic lines on human longings, directs the traveler toward a low wall of blue and green mosaics of swirling waves. It then leads them further to a steel kiosk on the station platform displaying, in mosaic form, the 'wishes' of youth from the Compton community, that range from the desire to end discrimination to simple requests for school supplies.

"This art work will enrich our community," said MTA Chairman Larry Zarian.

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"Lynn's work has truly transformed this Metro station. Watching people interact with the artwork on a daily basis has been wonderful," said Maya Emsden, Director of Metro Art.

"I tried to draw metaphors for contemporary urban experience, and our constant striving for renewal," Aldrich said.

Aldrich has a studio in Los Angeles, and works as an instructor at the Art Center College in Pasadena, where she received her own training. She has exhibited widely in California.

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