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Metro Rail adds six new artworks by commissioned artists to five stations along L.A.'s 73.1-mile transit system

- 'Meet the Artists' Metro Art Tour and Reception: Meet the artists of six new projects on the Metro Rail system Sunday afternoon, March 13, from 2 to 3 p.m.
- A reception follows at 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the First & Hill streets entrance to the Civic Center Metro Rail Station. The public is invited. (Civic Center Station, 101 S. Hill St, in downtown Los Angeles.)

The featured artworks and artists are:

[In the Living Rock](#) by Samm Kunce

[Civic Center Benches](#) by Peter Reiquam

[No Title](#) by Bob Zoell

[Photographs on the DC Subway](#) by Andrew Z. Glickman

[A Florence Moment](#) by Ricardo Duffy

[The Will to Progress](#) by Ricardo Mendoza

LOS ANGELES - All aboard the Metro Rail System: *A set of subway sofas suggests the comforts of a living room at the Civic Center Station. A 160-ft ceramic mural of Venetian cake glass and granite transforms an entrance to the Civic Station into a lush landscape. Art panels transmit an experience of the energetic neighborhood that surrounds the Florence Station on the Metro Blue Line. And, who are the larger-than-life types holding up the Firestone Station? Bold, graphic statements on lime green and lemon yellow columns are a symbolic gateway at the Wilshire/Vermont Station. And, there's a new photography exhibit at the mezzanine lobby of the Wilshire/Normandie Station.*

The latest additions to the ever-growing Metro Rail art collection are open and on exhibit at select stations along the 73.1 mile transit system.

And, just like in a museum reception, the artists of the six new projects and members of the Metro Art Docent Council will offer those in attendance an opportunity to discuss the creation of each artwork. The event will culminate in a public reception celebrating the installations at 3 p.m. at the Civic Center Station plaza at First and Hill streets.

The artworks were commissioned as part of the extensive Metro Art program that enhances the 73.1-mile transit system. The 63 Metro Rail stations and Gateway Transit Center feature the work of more than 85 artists.

Metro policy allocates 0.5% of rail construction costs to the enhancement of the rail system through the arts.

Established in 1989, Metro Art has commissioned over 250 artists for a wide variety of both temporary and permanent projects. Artists are selected through a peer review process with community input; all works are created especially for the transit-related sites.

The Metro Art Docent Council, which consists of 22 trained volunteers from the Los Angeles region, regularly conduct tours of Metro Art and illuminate the artworks with commentary that details the public art process from concept to installation.

Free tours of the art of the Metro Rail system are given by the Metro Docent Council on the first Saturday and Sunday of every month. For more information e-mail

lashenickb@metro.net or call 213.922.2738. Free tours for groups of 15 or more are available by special arrangement.

Valid fare is required to travel on Metro Rail. Information: (213) 922-4ART or visit Metro Art on the web at www.mta.net/metroart.

For directions by Metro Bus or Metro Rail call 1-800-COMMUTE or visit www.metro.net. For more information, visit www.metro.net/metroart or call Metro Art at 213-922-4ART.

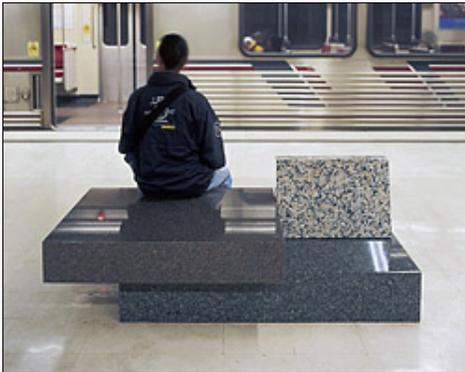
The featured artworks and artists are:

"In the Living Rock" by Samm Kunce, Civic Center Station, 101 S. Hill St, in downtown Los Angeles. (Southwest corner of First and Hill streets)



Samm Kunce's artwork "In the Living Rock" explores ideas gathered from science and literature. A recurrent theme in her work is the celebration of inherent beauty of natural materials. The tile mural runs the length of the curved planter bed wall and a hanging garden exquisitely executed in Venetian cake glass mosaic supported by an expanse of striated sand colored granite. Kunce is a Brooklyn based artist exhibiting regularly in New York and in Germany. Her public artwork includes "Under Bryant Park", commissioned by the NYC MTA Arts for Transit Program and awarded the 2002 Best Public Art project by the New York Municipal Art Society.

"Civic Center Benches" by Peter Reiquam, platform of the Civic Center Station, 101 S. Hill St, in downtown Los Angeles.



Artist Peter Reiquam specializes in the design and fabrication of public furnishings that are both fun and utilitarian. His recent work, a sleek series of four contemporary subway 'sofas,' provide a seating area where commuters may comfortably sit and talk to one another while waiting for the train. Reiquam is a Seattle-based artist who obtained his MFA from the Yale School of Art. He has over 20 years experience working on public art projects, including commissions for the Tri-Met Public Art Program Portland and the Washington State Arts Commission, as well as projects at the King County International Airport and the Meany Hall for Performing Arts, Seattle. He was the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Visual Artist Fellowship in 1986.

"No Title" by Bob Zoell, Platforms of Wilshire/Vermont Metro Rail Station; 3191 Wilshire Blvd.; Wilshire District.



Artist Bob Zoell has abstracted the appearance and arrangement of typographic design symbols to create a bold and graphic series of ceramic tile murals. The artwork covers four columns at station platforms: two on the upper level and two in the lower. The artist worked carefully to establish an animated and playful dynamic between his characters. Text appears to dance at it's own happy pace, while other figures run off kilter as if ready to jump off the columns to greet commuters. Bob Zoell's artwork has been featured in the New Yorker magazine and he has authored and illustrated many children's books. He has been included in exhibitions throughout the world including the Fundacio Joan Miro, Barcelona and the Center Georges Pompidou, Paris. His artwork is included in the permanent collection of the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art.

"Photographs on the DC Subway" by Andrew Z. Glickman: Seven illuminated photo panels on the mezzanine level of the Wilshire/Normandie Station, 3510 Wilshire Blvd., Wilshire District



Andrew Z. Glickman uses photography to document how subway passengers behave among total strangers. In train cars with ample space, passengers position themselves at carefully calibrated distances from their neighbors. However, once that space has been established they begin to relax and act as they might do in the privacy of home. Glickman prefers to work unnoticed using a 35mm rangefinder camera with a silent shutter and without a flash. Born and raised in New York City, Glickman received his education at the Bronx High School of Science and the University of Virginia. His work has been supported by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and exhibited at galleries and museums including the Art Institute of Chicago. Photographs from this series have been published by the Urban Institute and Communication Arts. Glickman lives with his wife and son in Bethesda, Maryland.

"A Florence Moment" by Ricardo Duffy: Platform of the Florence Station of the Metro Blue Line, located at 7225 Graham Avenue, in Central Los Angeles.



Artist Ricardo Duffy, after visiting the neighborhood along Florence Avenue, was inspired to create tile images depicting lively local storefronts, dynamic pedestrian traffic and area landmarks by the dynamic foot traffic along the storefront-filled street. Lively and colorful, the immediate community is primarily a mix of new immigrants from Mexico and Central America along with long-standing African American and Anglo residents. The Metro Florence Station is a narrow center platform rail station that sits in the center of this bustling community. Four large-scale steel sign posts on the platform house seating for the rail customers. The artist attached eight whimsical ceramic artwork panels to the top of the seating structures.

"The Will to Progress" by Ricardo Mendoza: street-level entrance of the Firestone Station of the Metro Blue Line, located at 8615 Graham Ave., in Central Los Angeles



Artist Ricardo Mendoza designed a brightly energetic ceramic artwork at the existing concrete columns at the lower level of Florence Station in the area where passengers make bus/rail connections. The imagery consists of larger than life figures appearing to hold up the railway. The hand painted ceramic tile, both flat and relief, gives the columns a vibrant and unique look that transforms a predominantly hard-edged environment into one of inspiration and color.

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