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Metro

News

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ARTISTS TRANSFORM METRO ORANGE LINE INTO WORK OF ART

Opening October 29th, 2005 the Metro Orange Line will showcase artwork of 15 California artists

The work of fifteen California artists is being incorporated into the new Metro Orange Line to enhance the journeys of future riders. One of the unique aspects of the Orange Line is that the artists' brought a sense of both continuity and individuality to the stations. Artworks include terrazzo paving at platforms, colorful porcelain steel art panels at each station entry, sculpted seating, and various artist influenced landscaping elements. Thirteen of the fourteen stations will have incorporated artworks (Warner Center Station, which is on City of LA property, was not part of the art program). The artworks were commissioned by Metro Art, the public art program of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro).

“This work is a tribute to the Valley,” said Renée Petropoulos, who served as the lead artist on the project, “I envisioned artworks strewn across the Valley as jewels on a 14 mile necklace.”

“The artists commissioned for the Metro Orange Line have created a unique sense of place for future transitway patrons and have made what we believe is a great contribution to our customers' experience,” said Maya Emsden, who oversees the Metro Art program and is Metro's Deputy Executive Officer of Creative Services.

Renée Petropoulos

Renée Petropoulos, grew up in the Valley and now lives and works in Venice, CA. She holds an MFA from UCLA, and is Associate Professor at Otis College of Art and Design. She has completed

a number of public art commissions across the country and her work has become increasingly situation specific, reflecting an interest in the subject and the history of visual culture.

As lead artist, Petropoulos worked with the project design team to provide the Orange Line with a unified, streamlined continuous aesthetic; she heavily influenced the design of the station canopies, platforms and seating as well as the materials and colors used in the stations. Her concept of a “necklace” for the Valley is evident in the terrazzo paving shapes that occur on all station platforms (with the exception of Warner Center Station). Plaza seating areas at five station park & ride areas were also designed by Petropoulos; shade structures, also to be designed by the artist, are anticipated at a future date. She has entitled the work ‘14 Miles’.

Jud Fine

Jud Fine is a Venice, CA based artist, holds a BA from UCSB and an MFA from Cornell University, and is a Professor of Art at USC. He has been working in the public sphere for the last ten years and has completed a number of large scale public art projects throughout California.

As landscape artist, Fine collaborated with the project landscape architect to develop landscaping artwork and plantings integrated throughout the Orange Line route. In addition to seven landscape art areas, designed specifically to reflect local conditions, Fine selected the double line of Aleppo and Torrey Pines, which run the length of the project and are spaced to approximate the sense of movement of a vehicle on the transitway. Sculpted markers, to be placed in the landscaping, are anticipated at a future date. He has entitled the work ‘Seven Spots and a Path’.

Caryl Davis

Caryl Davis is an LA based artist, holds a BA and MFA from UCLA, and has taught life drawing at SCIArc for many years. Her work explores relationships between the body, environment and new materials.

Entitled ‘Dramatic Locale’, Davis’ work at the North Hollywood Orange Line Station features text suggestive of geologic strata and portrays a dialogue between land and a changing population. The art panel at the station entrance lists the many placenames given to the region’s landforms by its inhabitants.

Orange Line passengers will literally walk into the San Fernando Valley over a rocky terrazzo image of the region—crossing vast ranges, valleys and fault zones extending from coast to desert, as seen from space.

Phung Huynh

Chinese/Cambodian painter Phung Huynh was born in Vietnam and now lives and works in LA after completing her BFA at the Art Center College of Design and MFA at New York University. Her work draws from allegories and fables as well as from traditional and contemporary American imagery.

Working in a pop culture sensibility, Huynh's artwork for Laurel Canyon Station, which she has entitled 'Lucky California', displays 'lucky' Chinese cherubs with California poppies, and Chinese cherub pilots in a surreal yet travel-friendly atmosphere of airplanes, birds and flying oranges. The designs suggest travel, a "bon voyage" gesture, and imagery symbolic of California. They are lucky symbols and happy gestures that welcome or bid farewell to travelers in the area.

Laura London

Laura London is an LA based artist raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received her MFA from California Institute of the Arts and teaches photography at Otis College of Art and Design. Her photographic work integrates contemporary youth and popular culture within the environment.

For Valley College Station, London's black and white contemporary portraits shot in historic locations of rock 'n' roll history reference the styles and fashions of the times and is entitled 'Former Location/Contemporary Portrait'. Recreated scenes of the San Fernando Valley include the 1969 Rolling Stones album cover "Big Hits (High Tides and Green Grass)," shot in Franklin Canyon, and Devonshire Downs (racetrack), where the Newport '69 Festival headlined Jimi Hendrix, The Animals, Marvin Gaye and others. It was also formerly the original Valley College location (now Cal State University Northridge).

Daniel Marlos

Daniel Marlos, an LA based artist, grew up in Younstown, Ohio, received his MFA from Art Center College of Design and teaches at LA City College. He is an installation artist, whose primary media has been photography and film. He has recently expanded his media to include the handmade quilt.

For the Woodman Station, Daniel Marlos selected “Journey to California,” a quilt pattern that references both California and travel. The pattern is also the title to the work. After first creating a quilt in this pattern he then photographed it and incorporated the photographic image into the entry panel at the station; the pattern is also incorporated into the terrazzo paving. Many quilt designs have descriptive names that are associated with transportation.

Roxene Rockwell

LA based artist Roxene Rockwell attended LA Valley College, and has an MA from Antioch University Southern California. Her collages and assemblages have a surreal quality and primarily deal with re-examining ordinary things and placing them in unexpected surroundings.

For the Van Nuys Station Rockwell depicts wheat and sugar beet fields, reminders of what was here before Van Nuys was subdivided in 1911. The chicken represents the chicken farms that existed in north Van Nuys and the floating musical notes draw attention to the fact that organs were produced for the silent movie theaters within walking distance of this station. Twinkling lights seen from the hill above represent the Van Nuys that we know today. She has titled the work ‘Todos Vuelven/Everyone Returns’.

Michele Martínez

Michele Martínez has an MA in Latin American Studies from UCLA. She has taught language, art and cultural studies at various schools throughout Southern California. For her work she collects stories and invokes imagination to render works in paper, fabric and paint.

For Sepulveda Station, Martínez included a map of the Monarch Butterfly’s western migratory path along the West Coast and a Monarch larvae on a double spiral which references the genetic encoding that spurs every third generation of butterflies to complete a migration from Canada to central Mexico. This work is a tribute to the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve and the efforts of the people who strive to protect natural habitats.

John Roloff

John Roloff, an internationally recognized Bay area visual artist with a background in science, works conceptually with site, process and natural systems. His work has been shown He is Professor and Chair of Sculpture at the Center for Art and Science at the San Francisco Art Institute.

Roloff's artwork at Woodley Station, entitled 'Valley Scan', references the geological make up of the Van Nuys, Sepulveda and San Fernando Valley area as well as paying homage to the geologists who study the Valley. A gradient of light creates the illusion of a "cavity" with mud cracks indicating water from ancient aquifers, while "boulders" reveal remnants of an imaginary, ancient event dispersing the rocks now held in place by subsequent deposition. West oriented shadows represent a moment in time, in the late afternoon of one day, perhaps hundreds of thousands of years ago buried by geologic processes now revealed by the cavities "excavation." The illusion of depth is an invitation to look beneath the Valley's surface both literally and imaginatively.

John O'Brien

John O'Brien, who recently completed works at two LA libraries, has a MFA from USC and teaches sculpture at California State University Northridge. He has years of experience as an artist, educator and fabricator with a special focus on the traditions of assemblage art and large sculpture.

Entitled 'OverSite', O'Brien's work for Balboa Station incorporates images taken from high altitude aerial photos and from landsat satellite sources. A person in transit can either enjoy the artwork from the purely decorative point of view or delve into its mapping and discover that it actually maps the area they are transiting through.

Jody Zellen

A photo based artist Jody Zellen lives in LA and works in many media simultaneously making photographs, installations, net art, public art, as well as artists' books that explore the subject of the urban environment. She holds an MFA from California Institute of the Arts and teaches at Cal Poly Pomona.

Zellen's work for the Reseda Station, entitled 'Now and Then', incorporate images from the San Fernando Valley that trace its architectural history and its relationship to the city of Los Angeles. Text based work includes a verse from the San Fernando Valley song by Gordon Jenkins and a quote by Catherine Mulholland.

Sadow Birk

Raised on the beaches of Southern California, Birk is currently living and working in Long Beach and holds a BFA from Otis College of Art and Design. His work, which often uses historical genres with a satirical contemporary twist, focuses on social and political issues including Los Angeles' inner city

barrios, the 1992 civil disturbances, OJ Simpson, the LAPD, gangs, surfing, and skateboarding; he also completed several works documenting a fictional war between LA and San Francisco.

Birk's work for the Tampa Station relate to the town of Tarzana as named after Edgar Rice Burroughs' most famous creation and hero of more than twenty of his novels, Tarzan of the Apes. Sandow Birk selected the zebra skin and the giraffe skin as patterns, readily recognizable and identifiable with Africa, and reproduced the entire 28 chapter, 172 page text of the book "Tarzan of the Apes." The text has been printed in two portions, one for each platform, so that over the course of repeated visits passengers can read the book in its entirety. He has entitled the work 'Tarzan and Tarzana'.

Pat Warner

Pat Warner was raised in a Mennonite community in Lancaster County, PA and attended the Museum School of Art, Museum of Fine Art in Houston, TX. Using materials as varied as wood, steel, and concrete, Warner's installations express concerns about our environment.

Entitled 'What We See', Warner's designs for Pierce College Station reflect the college's emphasis on agricultural programs. The imagery make references to nature and horticulture: leaves and tree limbs refer to the natural landscape and the lattice design of overlapping branches refer to espaliering, a traditional method of pruning and training fruit trees. The art panels feature images of birds that have been sited on the campus. Red tailed hawk, mockingbird, and Canada goose are common species that most users of the station will recognize. Western tanagers, western bluebirds and some species of warblers are less common but will be recognized by more observant travelers.

John Divola

A past Canoga area resident, LA based John Divola holds a MFA from UCLA and is a Professor at UC Riverside. He works primarily with photography and digital imaging and has approached a broad range of subjects.

Divola's design elements for the De Soto Station involve images of dogs chasing cars. The terrazzo ellipses are dog run sequences and the enamel panels are individual dogs frozen in motion. He has entitled the work 'Images from 'Dogs Chasing My Car in the Desert''.

Roy Dowell

Based in LA and Palm Springs, Roy Dowell holds both a BFA and MFA from California Institute of the Arts and is Chair of Graduate Studies in Fine Art at Otis College of Art and Design. He works primarily as a painter but has produced both sculptures and installations. His work includes both representational and abstract elements taken from a wide range of sources, locations and cultural references.

Dowell's work, entitled 'Constructed Histories', will be installed in the future Canoga Station (anticipated to open in 2006) and utilizes images of neighboring signage and found printed posters and advertisements combined with other found printed material. The aircraft engine being used as a public sculpture at the Boeing plant across the street from the future Metro site was another point of inspiration, an object taken out of context and presented for purely aesthetic consideration.

METRO ART

Established in 1989, Metro Art has commissioned over 250 artists for a wide variety of both temporary and permanent art projects throughout the Metro System. Artists are selected through a peer review process with community input; all works are created especially for the transit-related sites. For more information about the Metro Art Program and its free docent guided tours, visit metro.net or call Metro Art at 213-922-4ART.

METRO ORANGE LINE

The Metro Orange Line runs between the North Hollywood Metro Red Line Station to Warner Center in Woodland Hills. Advanced, 60-foot compressed natural gas buses operate on an exclusive right-of-way through North Hollywood, Valley Glen, Van Nuys, Reseda, Winnetka, Canoga Park and Woodland Hills. The transitway includes 12 miles of pedestrian and bike paths, and more than 800,000 new plants and shrubs and 5,000 new trees.

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