A preview presentation of New York’s newest public art installation, the Second Avenue Subway, was held yesterday at the Museum of Modern Art. On hand to give us a sneak peek of this ambitious artistic project were Governor Andrew Cuomo, Thomas Prendergast, Chairman & CEO of the MTA, and Glen Lowry, Director of the Museum of Modern Art.

Moving right into a slideshow presentation, giving us a first look at the four subway stations making up the newest part of the Second Avenue Subway, Governor Cuomo shared his thoughts about how “art and architecture are what make this city vibrant,” and in this project, as in all of the MTA art projects, integrating art in our stations shows the character of our society, as we strive for our public stations to have more than functionality and form.
The four renowned artists chosen for the first four stations making up the Second Avenue Subway have each reflected in their artwork the diversity of the people who will frequent those stations everyday. The artwork was shown in a slideshow format, and our photo’s below were taken from that slideshow. Here is some of what we have to look forward to.

The artist, Jean Shin entitled her 63rd Street Station artwork “Elevated,” named for the elevated girders that were dismantled. Her creative process for this project led her through the archives of the New York Transit Museum and the New-York Historical Society for inspiration.
“Elevated” by the artist Jean Shin
Governor Cuomo left us with the anticipated opening date of January 1, 2017, which was met with laughter from the well-attended crowd of press. But the Governor smiled, and was quick to assuage our disbelief with a reminder of the New York Spirit that has made us the great city we are, and a reminder of other projects we have to look forward to, including “Harbors of Lights” project, which will light our bridges with LED colors; the redevelopment of the Javitz Center; restoration of JFK airport and the TWA Terminal Hotel; the new Penn-Farley Complex, and the new Long Island Railroad Concourse; “New York Crossings,” which removes all toll booths; renovation of the inside of our tunnels, and renovation of 33 existing subway stations.
The Second Avenue Subway will be built in four phases. Phase 1, which will run from 63rd to 96th Streets, is expected to serve more than 200,000 people each day. When completed, the project will span 8.5 miles and run from Hanover Square in lower Manhattan to 125th Street in East Harlem, and Congressman Charles Rangel was there to applaud that final phase.

The first train of the $4.5 million MTA Second Avenue Subway will leave from the 96th Street station at 6:04 a.m. on January 1, 2017. See you there!