It’s been a little over three years since we lost Lou Reed, but the legend will live on in the form of a colossal mosaic by Chuck Close, to be unveiled next month as part of the 2nd Avenue subway.

Today at the Museum of Modern Art, Governor Andrew Cuomo— who lately has been all about beautifying our transportation hubs— announced that the artwork of Close, Sara Sze, Vik Muniz and Jean Shin will be displayed on the walls of three new stations, plus the new entrance of a fourth, when they open January 1. As part of this “museum underground,” as Cuomo called it, Chuck Close’s “Subway Portraits” will grace the walls of the 86th Street station, near the entrances and on the mezzanine concourse. Nearly nine feet tall, the NoHo artist’s
12 photorealistic works portray Philip Glass, Zhang Huan, Kara Walker, Alex Katz, Cecily Brown, Cindy Sherman, Lou Reed, and Close himself.

“My thinking was, a) I wanted mosaics upstairs to reflect the ridership in the cars below,” he says in the video. “Old people, young people, babies, Asians, black woman, black man, someone from out of left-field... But the other thing was, I wanted to do, as much as possible, each piece in a different methodology.”

As you can see, the portrait of artist Cecily Brown is indeed markedly different from Close’s more abstract self-portrait.