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Is the Second Avenue Subway the Best New Museum in New York City?

Four stations stretching from East 96th to East 63rd Streets will
feature works by some of the biggest names in art

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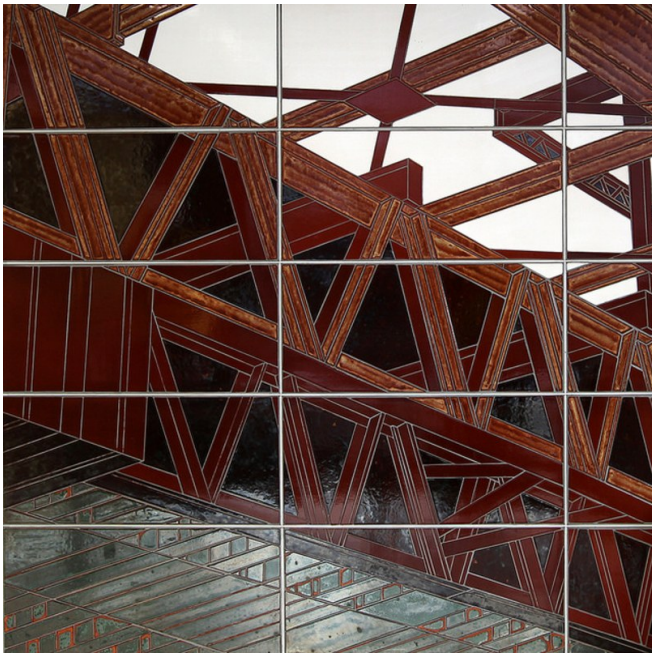
Perfect Strangers by Vik Muniz at 72nd Street. Photo: Metropolitan Transportation Authority

New York's Upper East Side—home to historic Museum Mile—has a new permanent installation thanks to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's 31-year-old Arts & Design Office and its \$4.5 million public art budget. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently revealed works by artists Sarah Sze,

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Chuck Close, Vik Muniz, and Jean Shin on the walls of the soon-to-be-opened 96th, 86th, 72nd, and 63rd Street stations of the Second Avenue subway line.

Using tiles and mosaics, the artists (who each have a station devoted to their work) have crafted large-scale public art that recalls the design of the city's other subway stations. While the talents have all created work in their individual styles, the subjects of their installations are inspired by Gotham. Sarah Sze's *Blueprint for a Landscape* evokes the hustle and bustle of the city; Chuck Close's *Subway Portraits* mosaic features famed New York artist Kara Walker; Vik Muniz's *Perfect Strangers* is a life-size depiction of subway riders waiting at the edge of the platform; and Jean Shin's *Elevated* reimagines the Second Avenue elevated train before it was demolished in the 1940s. Each artist pays tribute to the city and its people. On January 1, with the swipe of your MetroCard, you'll be able to see these works in person at what could be called Manhattan's newest museum.



Elevated by Jean Shin at 63rd Street.

Photo: Metropolitan Transportation Authority