

CRISTIN TIERNEY



The tile mosaics at the Second Avenue subway's 72nd Street station are just one of many artworks commissioned by the MTA. (Credit: Getty Images / Yana Paskova)

NYC subway art: Second Avenue-72nd Street, Court Square and more stations

By Lauren Cook with Vincent Barone *January 3, 2017*

The subway may feel like a necessary evil to some, with its slow or delayed service and overcrowded trains.

But in its own way, the MTA makes up for the harsh realities of public transit by providing beautiful artwork at many of its stations.

Since the MTA Arts & Design was established in the 1980s, the agency has commissioned more than 300 works from artists, creating a broad spectrum of entertainment for our eyes as we get to and from our daily destinations.

Take a look at some of the interesting works of art you can find around New York City — all of it just a train ride away.

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Second Avenue-63rd Street



At the rebuilt 63rd Street station, Jean Shin used archival photographs to hark back to the Second Avenue El (the demolished elevated line that ran above Second and Third avenues until the summer of 1940) as well as the New Yorkers who were ambling around it. Her piece -- made of ceramic tile, glass mosaic, and laminated glass -- is called "Elevated."

"I feel that role as artists being able to infuse beauty, history, memory, the reimagined into public audiences who commute every day -- and having art be part of their everyday experience -- is humbling," Shin said.

(Credit: Office of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo / Tara Foster)