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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

New Photo Exhibits: The 1950's at Grand Central Terminal and Scenes of Color in Brooklyn

MTA Arts for Transit program announced today the installation of two lightbox photography exhibits, one at Grand Central Terminal and the other at the Atlantic Avenue Station in Brooklyn. The exhibits depict two visions of New York's way of life in a different time and place. One of the exhibits premieres black and white photographs observing people at GCT in the early 1950's and the second captures lyrical scenes from the borough of Brooklyn.

"These great exhibits bring a new perspective of time and place in different moments in the life of our city," said Sandra Bloodworth Director of MTA Arts for Transit. "All our customers can enjoy the history and art behind these exhibits that offer a unique experience to millions of New Yorkers using mass transit."

The exhibit by Boris Klapwald, Meet Me at Grand Central, compiles a number of photographs taken at Grand Central Terminal in the early 1950's offering a glimpse of a decade with plenty of anxieties. His camera takes in the clothing and postures, soldiers on leave restless children, anxious travelers, and solitary adults in an atmosphere thick with light and shadow in the station we still use today.

Klapwald, 76, grew up in Peekskill, NY, and after a long time working in interior design and accruing experience in several creative fields, he decided to show his photographs that have never been exhibited and offer a rare glimpse into America's grand waiting room during the Korean War years.

The Brooklyn in Color exhibit contains eight large-scale lightboxes, 66" X 48", that feature the work of Ranjit Bhatnagar, a Park Slope resident who travels the borough with his camera capturing lyrical scenes, usually in bright saturated colors -moments in time- that celebrate Brooklyn's sights and spirit.

The images include a block of row houses framed by coneflowers, a slice of the borough's beloved red velvet cake, a color-drenched stoop as well as scenes from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Prospect Park and Coney Island.

Each of the neighborhoods and sights seen in the photographs are Brooklyn destinations that can be reached from the subway lines that make stops at Atlantic Avenue or the adjacent Pacific Street station.

The MTA Lightbox program offers bright, vivid photographs to enliven subway passageways and the underground environment, and showcase the work of primarily New York-based photographers. Large-scale lightboxes (approx. 45 x 66 inches) are illuminated from within and the images are printed on duratrans film by local providers who donate their services.

The exhibits will be on view through Summer 2007. The lightboxes are located at two key sites: Grand Central Terminal Dining Pavilion (S, 4, 5, 6, 7, Metro-North) and Atlantic Avenue (2, 3, 4, 5, B, D, M, N, Q, LIRR). Exhibitions rotate approximately every 12-16 months and a range of photographic work is represented. Arts for Transit encourages the use of public transit by presenting visual and performing arts projects in subway and commuter rail stations. For more information, log onto www.mta.info.