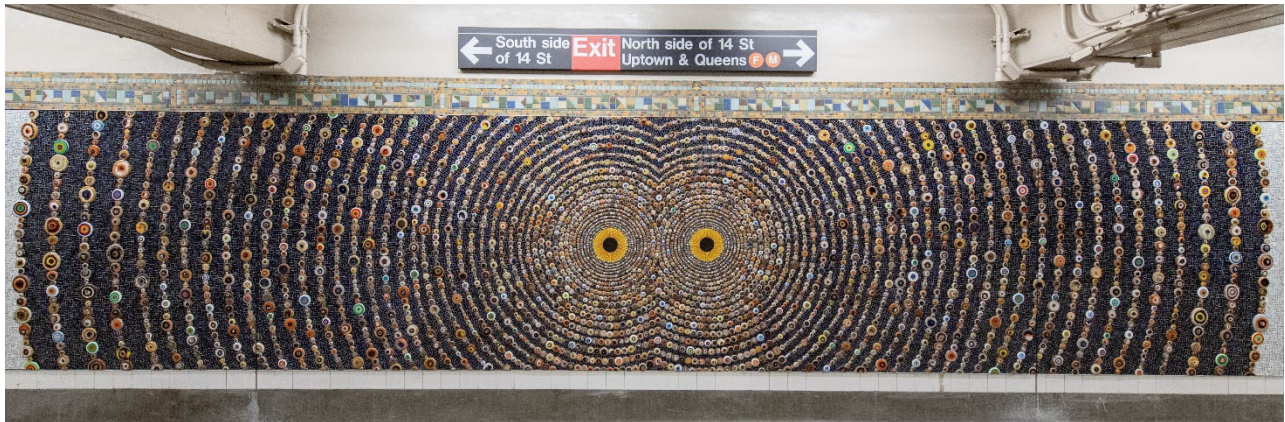




Media Announcement

Stunning Mosaic Artwork by Fred Tomaselli Just Landed at the 14 St Station Complex in Manhattan



Wild Things (2024) © Fred Tomaselli, NYCT 14 St-6 Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: MTA Trent Reeves.

(NEW YORK, NY — November 4, 2024) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce *Wild Things*, a permanent artwork by Fred Tomaselli. The suite of six mosaics is installed throughout the 14 St Station Complex (1,2,3,F,M,L) connecting the 14 St-7 Av and 14 St-6 Av stations in Manhattan. The Brooklyn-based artist, an avid birder, draws from his own multi-sensory bird watching experiences and presents these encounters in his signature style. With a focus on species that live year-round in New York City, temporal reality enters Tomaselli's imagined world in scenes that include orioles mobbing a falcon, an owl's gaze, a cosmic cardinal, woodpecker with sonic swirls, a bright sky full of abstract clouds in blue hues, and earth represented by the flaming red petals of a dahlia.

"Tomaselli's piece is dazzling," said **Juliette Michaelson, Interim Director, MTA Arts & Design**. "*Wild Things* activates the station complex in a way that is sure to delight even the most hurried rider, and it rewards those with time to marvel in the intricacy. It sets a new standard for art in the MTA system."

Wild Things is Tomaselli's first mosaic project, as well as his first permanent public artwork in Manhattan. His signature style of mixed-media painting has been translated into the new medium by Mayer of Munich, employing a variety of fabrication techniques to capture the artist's original collaged and painted images in glass and ceramic mosaic. The intricate compositions are composed of vibrant traditional smalti, custom-made buttons, and printed glass in a collage-like manner. In addition to depictions by his own hand, the artist typically includes newsprint as a collage



Detail: *Wild Things* (2024) © Fred Tomaselli, NYCT 14 St-7Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Trent Reeves.

material, evident in the Ben-Day dots style printed glass seen on the cardinal image and rays infiltrating the cloud. The stunning new artwork adds more than 680 square feet of mosaic throughout the complex.



Wild Things (2024) © Fred Tomaselli, NYCT 14 St-7Av Station Passageway. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Trent Reeves.

“I wanted to bring some of the nature of New York City, which lives above the subway, down into the underground,” said Brooklyn-based **artist Fred Tomaselli**. “The sky, plants, earth and some resident birds of New York, all get a place in this six-part work. They might be different from how they appear in the real world, but this is an approximation on how they feel to me when I’m experiencing them. I’ve always felt glass mosaic would be a good translation of my general, piece by piece, collagist sensibility, and now I finally get to see what that looks like. Even better, the L train has been “my” train for almost 40 years. The school my son went to, my home, studio and gym are all on this route. This is personal, and I’m humbly honored to have been allowed to contribute something to this station.”

The mosaics can be found in the 14 St-7Av (1,2,3) station at the stairs to Uptown and Downtown platforms, in the 14 St-6 Av (F,M,L) station Uptown & Queens mezzanine, and in the passage connecting to 6 Av alongside the recently renovated ramp. These and other ADA accessibility upgrades for the station complex are expected to be completed later this year.



Wild Things (2024) © Fred Tomaselli, NYCT 14 St-6Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Trent Reeves.

ABOUT FRED TOMASELLI

Fred Tomaselli was born in California (1956, Santa Monica, CA), and has lived in Brooklyn since 1985. Drawing upon art historical sources and Eastern and Western decorative traditions, his multi-media artworks depicting scenes from nature are comprised of mesmerizing patterns that appear to grow organically across his compositions. Venues for solo exhibitions include the Laguna Art Museum; the Joslyn Art Museum; the Oceanside Museum of Art; the Toledo Museum of Art; the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; the University of Michigan Museum of Art; the Orange County Museum of Art; the Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh; the Albright-Knox Art Gallery; and the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris. A survey exhibition opened at Aspen Art Museum and toured to the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College and the Brooklyn Museum.

ABOUT MTA ARTS & DESIGN

MTA Arts & Design encourages the use of public transportation by providing visual and performing arts in the New York metropolitan area. The Percent for Art program is one of the largest and most diverse collections of site-specific public art in the world, with more than 400 commissions by world-famous, mid-career and emerging artists. Arts & Design produces Graphic Arts, Digital Art, photographic Lightbox exhibitions, as well as live musical performances in stations through its Music Under New York (MTA MUSIC) program, and the Poetry in Motion program in collaboration with the Poetry Society of America. It serves the millions of people who rely upon MTA subways and commuter trains and strives to create meaningful connections between sites, neighborhoods, and people.

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