



Media Announcement

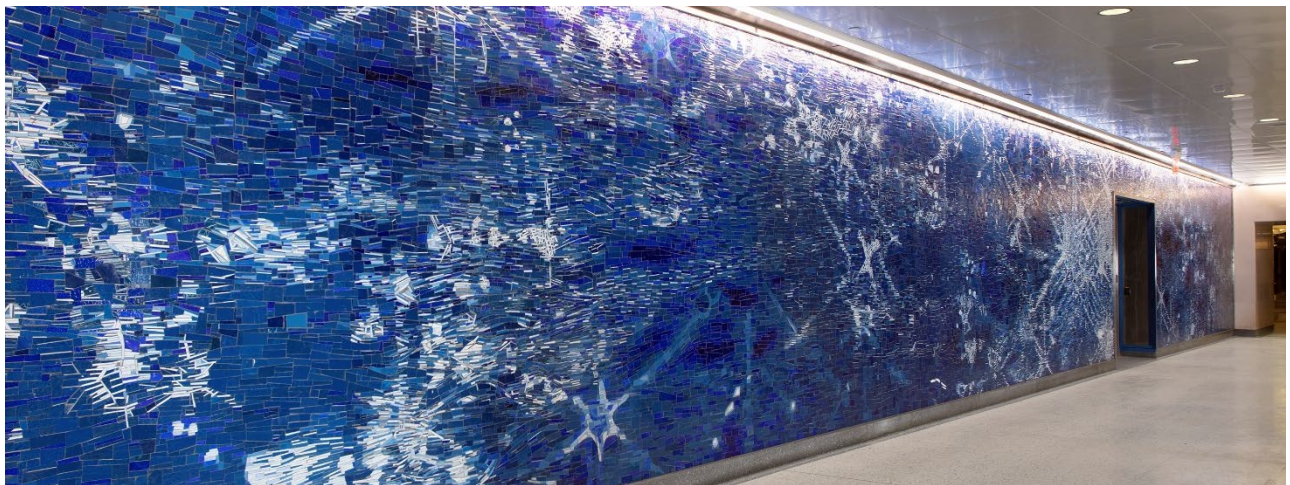
MTA Arts & Design Reveals a Cultural Corridor to Long Island at Grand Central Madison

New Permanent Artwork by acclaimed Yayoi Kusama and Kiki Smith

Digital Artwork by Gabriel Barcia-Colombo, Jordan Bruner, and Red Nose Studio
Photography Installation by Paul Pfeiffer in Partnership with International Center of Photography



A Message of Love, Directly from My Heart unto the Universe (2022) © YAYOI KUSAMA, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Kerry McFate, courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, David Zwirner.



River Light (2022) © Kiki Smith, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Richard Lee, courtesy of Pace Gallery.

(NEW YORK, NY — November 30, 2022) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce new permanent and temporary art projects to activate the highly anticipated Grand Central Madison, a new 700,000-square-foot Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) terminal below Grand Central Terminal, along Madison Avenue between 43 and 48 Streets in Manhattan, which is slated for public opening in December 2022.

Grand Central Madison will be the LIRR's new eastside terminus, serving as a portal into and out of New York City while providing LIRR with a second entry point to Manhattan's Central Business District. With a nod to the historic Grand Central Terminal above, the new public space will include retail, restaurants, spacious waiting areas and modern technology. Artworks commissioned and administered by MTA Arts & Design will enliven the new terminal's concourse and mezzanine levels.

Commissioned artworks include permanent glass mosaics by Yayoi Kusama and Kiki Smith, temporary digital artwork and poetry on five monumental LED screens, and a rotating photography lightbox exhibition programmed in partnership with International Center of Photography (ICP). Live performances will be presented by MTA MUSIC throughout the terminal.

Permanent Artwork by Yayoi Kusama and Kiki Smith

Two spectacular new artworks by celebrated contemporary artists Yayoi Kusama and Kiki Smith will become permanent fixtures in the elegant new train hall.

"Yayoi Kusama and Kiki Smith are quintessential artists for the new Grand Central Madison terminal," said **Sandra Bloodworth, Director, MTA Arts & Design**. "Both artists have created works in their own notable styles that celebrate this greatly anticipated public space. The mosaics are certain to become a destination in their own right, a 'not-to-be-missed' on everyone's list!"

YAYOI KUSAMA

Artwork by internationally renowned artist **Yayoi Kusama**, *A Message of Love, Directly from My Heart unto the Universe* (2022), is located on the Madison Concourse between 46 and 47 Streets. Expanding upon Kusama's iconic *My Eternal Soul* series, the new glass mosaic artwork is an exploration of lines and forms, detailed with bold colors. At once abstract and figurative, the artwork highlights a variety of motifs for visitors to discover. They convey the messages of LOVE, UNIVERSE, PEACE, OWE TO ALL MANKIND, which are central to Kusama's oeuvre.

Kusama's highly influential career spans paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works, films, fashion, design, and interventions within existing architectural structures. Fabricated by Miotto Mosaics Art Studios, the artwork measures 120' W x 7' H, totaling approximately 875 square feet of glass mosaic. *A Message of Love, Directly from My Heart unto the Universe* is a heartfelt gift to New York City by the internationally renowned artist. Kusama hopes that those encountering the work as they pass through the terminal will smile as they discover the artwork and the joy it brings to their daily commute.



A Message of Love, Directly from My Heart unto the Universe (2022) © YAYOI KUSAMA, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Kerry McFate, courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, David Zwirner.

KIKI SMITH

Since the 1980s, Kiki Smith has been known for her multidisciplinary work that explores embodiment and the natural world. Five individual mosaics by acclaimed artist **Kiki Smith** are located across two levels of Grand Central Madison. The glass mosaics, totaling over 1,400 square feet, were fabricated by Mayer of Munich. Smith has been creating works with them over the last 25 years. Artwork on view builds on the motif of the natural world that Smith has explored in her oeuvre for decades.



The Presence (2022) © Kiki Smith, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Richard Lee, courtesy of Pace Gallery.

Upon entering the new terminal's concourse from the historic Grand Central Terminal is *River Light*, a nearly 800 square foot mosaic inspired by the way sunlight glints on the surface of the East River, the threshold between Manhattan and Long Island. The four mosaic murals located in arched node walls throughout the Mezzanine level, *The Water's Way*, *The Presence*, *The Spring*, and *The Sound*, bring flora and fauna into the new terminal and conceptually relate with Grand Central and Long Island. Smith developed the images both visually and narratively by photographing the local landscape and animal life to portray quiet moments found in the Long Island landscape rendered in exquisite mosaic.



The Spring (2022) © Kiki Smith, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Richard Lee, courtesy of Pace Gallery.

Contemporary Photography by Paul Pfeiffer, in Partnership with ICP

Arts & Design will partner with the International Center of Photography (ICP) to present contemporary photography in lightboxes located on the concourse level at 43 Street. Artist **Paul Pfeiffer** is commissioned by ICP to create the site-specific work *Still Life*, celebrating the iconic street performer known as “Da Gold Man”, who has appeared as a living statue on the sidewalks of Times Square for more than 17 years, covered in gold and standing motionless on a common milk crate. Da Gold Man fascinates and entralls passersby with his uncanny, statue-like presence. When amazed audiences drop money in his tip box, he moves as a sign of appreciation.

Still Life features 10 large-scale photographs of Da Gold Man, measuring approximately 75 inches tall and 100 inches wide, printed on backlit film and displayed in five custom-made, double-sided lightboxes. The images on view remove Da Gold Man from his usual spot on the corner of Broadway and 43rd Street and install him within the infinite white space of a commercial advertising studio – a seamless backdrop typically used to photograph high-end jewelry, designer fashions, and other luxury products. The pictures resulting from this unlikely mixture blur the line between studio portraiture and product photography.



Still Life (2022) © Paul Pfeiffer, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by ICP in partnership with MTA Arts & Design.

Digital Artwork by Gabriel Barcia-Colombo, Jordan Bruner and Red Nose Studio

New media artists Gabriel Barcia-Colombo, Jordan Bruner and Red Nose Studio will mark the inauguration of five-channel LED screens at the north end of the Madison Concourse with three newly commissioned digital artworks. The LED screens, each measuring 17’ wide and over 7’ high, will engage passersby with an immersive and interactive experience. Each digital artwork will be two

minutes in length and explore the new terminal with elements of site-specificity, rendered in the artist's signature style.

Mixed-media artist **Gabriel Barcia-Colombo** presents a new video artwork *Platform*. Featuring life-scale portraits of 40 New Yorkers gathering in a super slow-motion, *Platform* examines what it means to be back together in a crowd post-pandemic. The moment of awe and interaction between those featured on-screen and the commuters passing through Grand Central Madison creates an ephemeral encounter that makes New York unique.



Platform (2022) © Gabriel Barcia-Colombo, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

Digital illustrator **Jordan Bruner's** *The Grand Wander* explores many of the sights one might encounter while traveling from Grand Central to Long Island, including the cityscape of midtown Manhattan, wildlife and beaches, the historic fishing industry, local wineries and food culture. These colorful scenes celebrate the broad range of experiences offered throughout Long Island.



The Grand Wander (2022) © Jordan Bruner, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

Hat Trick, a stop-motion animation by **Red Nose Studio** depicts a playful cat-and-mouse chase

through Grand Central Madison between a man and his bowler hat, inspired by the magical feeling of traveling throughout New York on the MTA's vast system. Portals appear and whisk the characters from one place to another with motion, timing, and surprise, doubling as a metaphor for the experience of moving through everyday life.



Hat Trick (2022) © Red Nose Studio, Grand Central Madison. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Yayoi Kusama was born in 1929 in Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan. From a young age, Yayoi Kusama experienced visual and auditory hallucinations and began creating net and polka-dot pattern pictures. In 1957, she went to the United States and began making net paintings and soft sculptures, as well as organizing happenings and developing installations that made use of mirrors and lights, establishing herself as an avant-garde artist. Overcoming various obsessions, she discovered an artistic philosophy of self-obliteration via the obsessive repetition and multiplication of single motifs.

Yayoi Kusama represented Japan at the 45th Venice Biennale in 1993, and lives and works in Tokyo, where the Yayoi Kusama Museum opened in October 2017. Over the past decade there have been museum exhibitions of Kusama's work touring the world in North America, Japan, Korea, Singapore, China, Australia, Russia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Spain, England, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, Canada, Taiwan, Indonesia, Germany, and Israel. In 2016, Kusama received the Order of Culture, one of the highest honors bestowed by the Imperial Family. Kusama is the first woman to be honored with the prestigious medal for drawings and sculptures. Continue reading on davidzwirner.com.

Kiki Smith, born 1954 in Nuremberg, Germany, uses a broad variety of materials to continuously expand and evolve a body of work that includes sculpture, printmaking, photography, drawing, and textiles. Smith has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions worldwide including over 25 museum exhibitions. Her work has been featured at five Venice Biennales, including the 2017 edition. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and in 2017 was awarded the title of Honorary Royal Academician by the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Previously, Smith was recognized in 2006 by TIME Magazine as one of the "TIME 100: The People Who Shape Our World." Other awards include the Skowhegan Medal for Sculpture in 2000; the 2009 Edward MacDowell Medal; the 2010 Nelson A. Rockefeller Award, Purchase College School of the Arts; the 2013 U.S. Department of State Medal of Arts,

conferred by Hillary Clinton; and the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center, among others. She is an adjunct professor at NYU and Columbia University.

Paul Pfeiffer, born in Honolulu in 1966, grew up between Hawaii and the Philippines before moving to New York in 1990 to attend Hunter College and the Whitney Independent Study Program. Pfeiffer is known for his highly sophisticated use of digital technologies and new media, and has created celebrated works of video, photography, installation, and sculpture since the late 1990s. Using digital erasure, magnification, and repetition, Pfeiffer samples and retouches images or video footage from sporting events, concerts, game shows, and Hollywood films to enhance their psychological effects. By drawing attention to certain aspects of visual culture and concealing others, he underlines the spectacular nature of contemporary media and its consumption.

Pfeiffer has had one-person exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art (2001); the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2003 and 2017-18); the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2005); MUSAC León, Spain (2008); the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2009) and Sammlung Goetz, Munich, Germany (2011). Pfeiffer has presented work in major international exhibitions in recent years, including the Performa Biennial (2019), the Honolulu Biennial (2019), the Seoul Mediacity Biennial (2022) and the Toronto Biennial (2022). His work is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Inhotim Museu de Arte Contemporanea, Inhotim, Brazil; the Pinault Collection, Venice; and Kunst Werke, Berlin, among others.

Gabriel Barcia-Colombo is a new media artist whose work focuses on collections, memorialization and the act of leaving a digital imprint for the next generation. His work includes video sculptures, immersive performances, large scale projections and vending machines that sell human DNA. It plays upon the modern exigency in today's culture to chronicle, preserve and wax nostalgic, an idea that Barcia-Colombo renders visually by "collecting" human portraits on video. Barcia-Colombo is a New York Foundation for the Arts grant awardee and faculty member at the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He serves as a member of the artist advisory board at the New York Foundation for the Arts, as well as an education committee member at the Museum of Art and Design. In 2014, he was awarded a senior TED fellowship.

Jordan Bruner is an artist and filmmaker from Virginia Beach, Virginia. Having developed a love for painting, illustration, and movie making from her time experimenting as a child and studying at the Governor's School for the Arts in high school, she continued her studies in animation and filmmaking at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. Jordan has continued to create films and paintings while also working professionally as an animation director for clients such as the *New York Times*, Google, Eve Ensler, Amazon, and "This American Life." In 2013, she was the recipient of the Art Directors Club Young Guns Award, which honors creative individuals under 30 worldwide for their collective portfolio. Her films have shown at festivals worldwide including Pictoplasma and the LA Film Festival, and her illustration work has been honored by the Society of Illustrators and American Illustration. Jordan currently lives in Richmond with her partner Zack, cat Pablo, and dog Zucchini.

Red Nose Studio creates 3D illustration and stop-motion animations that make images come to life with textures, light, and elbow grease. His illustrations and animations have been recognized by American Illustration, Communication Arts, and HOW. The Society of Illustrators has awarded three golds and a silver medal for both illustrative and motion work. The stop-motion animated films have screened at various festivals including Los Angeles International Short Film Festival and Montreal Stop-Motion Film Festival. He has authored and illustrated "The Look Book," and has illustrated the children's books "Here Comes The Garbage Barge," "The Beginner's Guide to Running Away From Home," and "The Secret Subway."

ABOUT ICP

The International Center of Photography (ICP) is the world's leading institution dedicated to photography and visual culture. Cornell Capa founded ICP in 1974 to champion “concerned photography”—socially and politically minded images that can educate and change the world. Through exhibitions, education programs, community outreach, and public programs, ICP offers an open forum for dialogue about the power of the image. Since its inception, ICP has presented more than 700 exhibitions, provided thousands of classes, and hosted a wide variety of public programs. ICP launched its new integrated center on Manhattan's Lower East Side in January 2020. Located at 79 Essex Street, ICP is the cultural anchor of Essex Crossing, one of the most highly anticipated and expansive mixed-use developments in New York City. ICP pays respect to the original stewards of this land, the Lenape people, and other indigenous communities. Visit icp.org to learn more about the museum and its programs.

ABOUT MTA ARTS & DESIGN

[MTA Arts & Design](#) encourages the use of public transportation by providing visual and performing arts in the metropolitan New York 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 350 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 (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.

PRESS CONTACT

MTA Press Office (212) 878-7440

For email inquiries:

arts@mtahq.org

CONNECT

Instagram: [@mtaartsdesign](#)

Twitter: [@MTAArtsDesign](#)

Facebook: [@MTAArtsDesign](#)