



Arts &
Design

Media Announcement

Bold New Artwork by Keri Sheheen Celebrates Staten Island's Nature and History at New Dorp Station



Creeping On Where Time Has Been (2023) © Keri Sheheen, SIR New Dorp Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Sean Sweeney.

(NEW YORK, NY — October 31, 2023) MTA Arts & Design announces a dynamic new artwork commission by artist Keri Sheheen for the SIR New Dorp station on Staten Island. Metal and glass panels line the walkway to the new elevator on the Tottenville-bound platform, and new screen-printed and hand painted art glass panels are installed on both sides of the station house portico. The installation, titled *Creeping On Where Time Has Been*, totals around 350 square feet of glass and metal artwork fabricated by Mayer of Munich and Ferra Designs, Inc. The New Dorp station has received ADA accessibility upgrades that were completed in September 2023, including new elevators and other improvements.

“Keri Sheehan has created a vibrant glass and metal artwork that animates the station and celebrates Staten Island with imagery steeped in its unique history,” says **Sandra Bloodworth, Director, MTA Arts & Design**. “She draws upon her mother’s recollections of New Dorp’s past, which is personal to the artist yet meaningful to anyone who contemplates this extraordinary artwork.” The bold new artwork is an appreciation of the borough’s historical architecture and includes imagery of notable structures such as the Vanderbilt Mausoleum and New Dorp Beach bungalows. Sheheen drew from her research of the station area with the Historic Richmond Town Archive and New York Transit Museum Archive, as well as firsthand accounts from her mother who grew up in New Dorp. Sheheen went to high school near the station and currently resides nearby.

“My inspiration stems from the relationship between New Dorp’s natural landscapes and architectural history in the neighborhood over the years,” states **artist Keri Sheheen**. “I wanted to create a work that

draws attention to Staten Island's rich history and give riders something beautiful and interesting to look at each day."

Noting the presence of ivy-covered farmhouses that date prior to the 1960s development of suburban housing in the historical photographs, Sheheen created a visual pattern to connect the window and railing designs. The artwork title, a line from the poem *The Ivy Green* by Charles Dickens, is an allusion to the ivy motif that symbolizes the persistence of time and nature's substantial presence on Staten Island despite manmade developments.

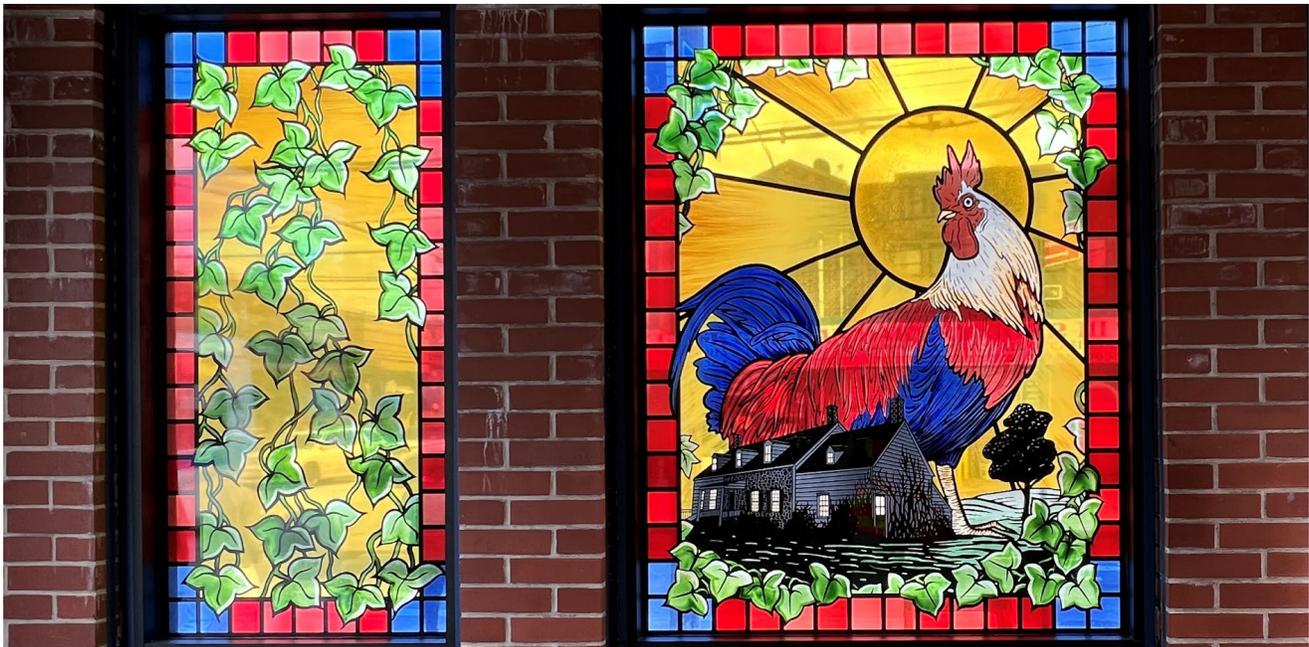


Photo: Historic Richmond Town

A suite of nine cut metal panels lines the walkway to the new elevator on the Tottenville-bound side of the station and features blue, yellow, and red glass squares lining the top and bottom of the panels. The colorful border is also seen on the laminated glass panels of the station porticoes and references the stained glass of the original 1889 station house, which was relocated to Historic Richmond Town in 1965. In the metal design, the ivy motif is a backdrop to stylized beach bungalows alluding to New Dorp's past as a turn-of-the-twentieth-century beach resort destination. Sheheen based the bungalow representations on historic buildings such as the Lang's Hotel, the Elm Tree Lighthouse, the Munger on the Beach Hotel, and the Cedar Grove Clubhouse.

The St. George-bound side of the station portico features a towering rooster in a nod to the farmland that once stretched across the neighborhood and acts as a greeter for morning commuters. The rooster stands over Britton Cottage, originally on New Dorp Lane, which was home to famous botanist Nathaniel Lord Britton, founder of the New York Botanical Garden. It is one of the oldest structures on Staten Island and was also moved to Historic Richmond town.

On the Tottenville-bound side is a serene evening scene for commuters returning home. A deer, common on Staten Island, stands over an illustration of the Vanderbilt Mausoleum located in nearby Moravian Cemetery. Cornelius Vanderbilt owned the New York Central Railroad and one of the first ferry services from Staten Island to Manhattan, indelible contributions to the daily commute of Staten Islanders.



Creeping On Where Time Has Been (2023) © Keri Sheheen, SIR New Dorp Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: MTA Arts & Design

ABOUT KERI SHEHEEN

Keri Sheheen is a multidisciplinary artist born and raised in Staten Island, NY. She has a profound interest for the macabre, local history and the strange that is explored through means of illustration, design, printmaking, and vintage forms of animation. With a BFA in printmaking from SUNY New Paltz as her foundation, she has exhibited works in galleries and shows throughout the tri-state area. This work includes screen printed posters, animations converging with printmaking techniques, and stop-motion animation. Beyond the gallery scene, Keri collaborates frequently with Coney Island USA, where she brings her art to life in the form of hand-painted banners for their annual Mermaid Parade in Brooklyn. Keri also frequents local art markets and fairs with her traveling print company, Parlor Trick Prints LLC. She currently lives and works from her home studio in New Dorp alongside her partner, Carl, and two cats, Charlie and Evelyn Bean.

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 380 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.

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