



Media Announcement

MTA Arts & Design Presents New Artwork by Carmen Lizardo at 181 St Station



Detail of *Great Waves of Immigration* (2023) © Carmen Lizardo, NYCT 181 St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.
Photo: Etienne Frossard.

(NEW YORK, NY — December 6, 2023) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce a new commission by artist Carmen Lizardo titled *Great Waves of Immigration* at 181 St (A) station. A total of three murals are located within the north mezzanine, one next to the newly installed elevators and the other two on the walls above the north stairs that lead to the northbound and southbound platforms. The mosaic murals were fabricated by Mosaicos Venecianos de México and encompass approximately 370 square feet of wall space.

“This spectacular project invites commuters to reflect on the generations who have made New York City and the Washington Heights neighborhood home, particularly the Dominican community,” **said Sandra Bloodworth, Director, MTA Arts & Design.** “Carmen Lizardo has created a moving evocation of her own personal history, reflecting on the ways that migration has shaped the life and culture of our great city. *Great Waves of Immigration* is an important addition to this station, providing community-based focal points for the public to enjoy.”

Lizardo's project encapsulates the immigrant experience—leaving home, enduring the arduous journey, and eventually arriving in an unfamiliar city. With *Great Waves of Immigration*, the artist seeks to acknowledge the Washington Heights community's historical migration patterns, which has given rise to its large Dominican population. She was inspired by the neighborhood's architecture and beauty, exemplified by the iconic George Washington Bridge, images of which are superimposed and layered within the murals.



Great Waves of Immigration (2023) © Carmen Lizardo, NYCT 181 St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Etienne Frossard.

Juxtaposed with these representations of iconic landmarks are portraits of the many people who travelled across vast bodies of water to settle in the area, the most recent of which include the Dominican community. Across from the turnstiles, the largest mural is divided into two parts using a yellow and gold color scheme. In the foreground is a giant overfilled *yo/a*, a Dominican boat used to make the journey over to U.S. territory. Above the downtown stairwell is a portrait of a woman holding part of a certificate of citizenship, and in the uptown stairwell is an image of an unidentified woman whose last living address was in Washington Heights. Together, these artworks remind the viewer of the diverse and ever-changing populations that have long called New York City home.

ABOUT CARMEN LIZARDO

Carmen Lizardo was born in the Dominican Republic and immigrated to the U.S. when she was 19 years old. She holds a BFA in Photography and an MFA in Digital Art from Pratt Institute. For Lizardo, using multiple media is an essential part of her work, particularly alternative photo processes, printmaking, drawing, and video work. Lizardo often creates work to help build an understanding of the human need. She makes art as a daily reminder of the commitments we make and how actions reflect in our lives, families, and communities. She aims to encourage a view of our world through the lens of empathy and a dialogue for social justice. Lizardo's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She has received several awards, including a Women Studio Workshop Book Production Grant, a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship (nominated in both Painting and Photography), The Academy of Arts and Letters, and En Foco fellowship. Lizardo was one of five American Artists of Latino descent awarded an international travel and production grant from the U.S. Department of Cultural Affairs. Her works have been included in two academic books: *Gum Printing: A Step-by-Step Manual Highlighting Artists and Their Creative Practice* (Focal Press) and *The Book of Alternative Photographic Processes* (Cengage Learning). Lizardo is a tenured faculty at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

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, live musical performances in stations through its 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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