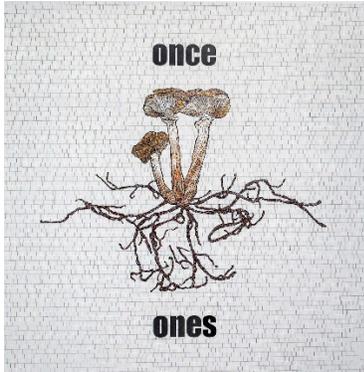




# Media Announcement

## New Artworks by Jackie Chang and Chloë Bass Reflect on Connections at Metropolitan Av/Lorimer St Station



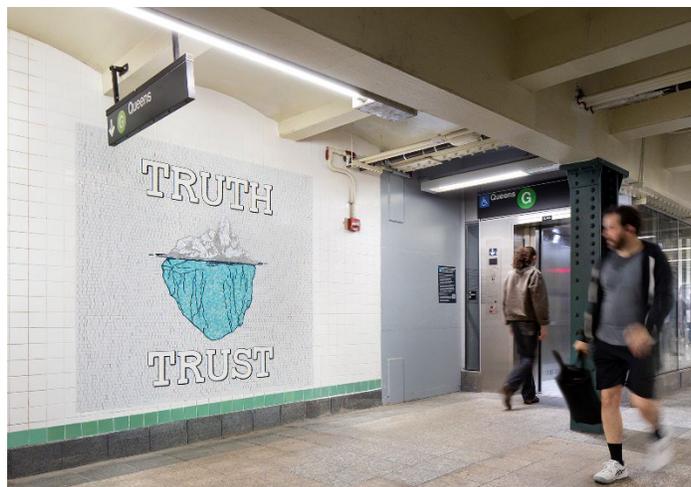
*Signs of Life* (2024) © Jackie Chang, NYCT Metropolitan Av Station (left). *Personal Choice #5* (2023) © Chloë Bass, NYCT Lorimer St Station (right). Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photos: Nicholas Knight.

(NEW YORK, NY — June 13, 2024) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce two mosaic artworks by artists Jackie Chang and Chloë Bass at the Metropolitan Av/Lorimer St (G,L) station complex in Brooklyn. At Metropolitan Av, Jackie Chang expanded upon *Signs of Life*, originally installed in 2000, and created two new compositions featuring graphic symbols and bold text that spark contemplation for those traveling through the station. At Lorimer St, Chloë Bass' artwork, titled *Personal Choice #5*, consists of three compositions portraying various gestures of touch overlaid with text written by the artist, lending a sense of continuity across each wall. Both artworks were fabricated by Miotto Mosaic Art Studios and are integrated with the ADA accessibility upgrades for the station complex, which was completed in March 2024, including new elevators, stairs and other improvements.

“We are thrilled to have artwork by Jackie Chang and Chloë Bass in dialogue at this station complex,” said **Sandra Bloodworth, Director, MTA Arts & Design**. “Their thought-provoking compositions pair text and imagery in a way that feels kindred, yet true to each artist’s style. These poetic representations speak directly to human connection, though language and touch.”

### JACKIE CHANG

Inspired by traditional Chinese writing in which the meaning of the character can be deciphered through its pictorial resemblance to a physical object or sign, Jackie Chang creates compositions combining text and image to evoke reflection on the human experience.

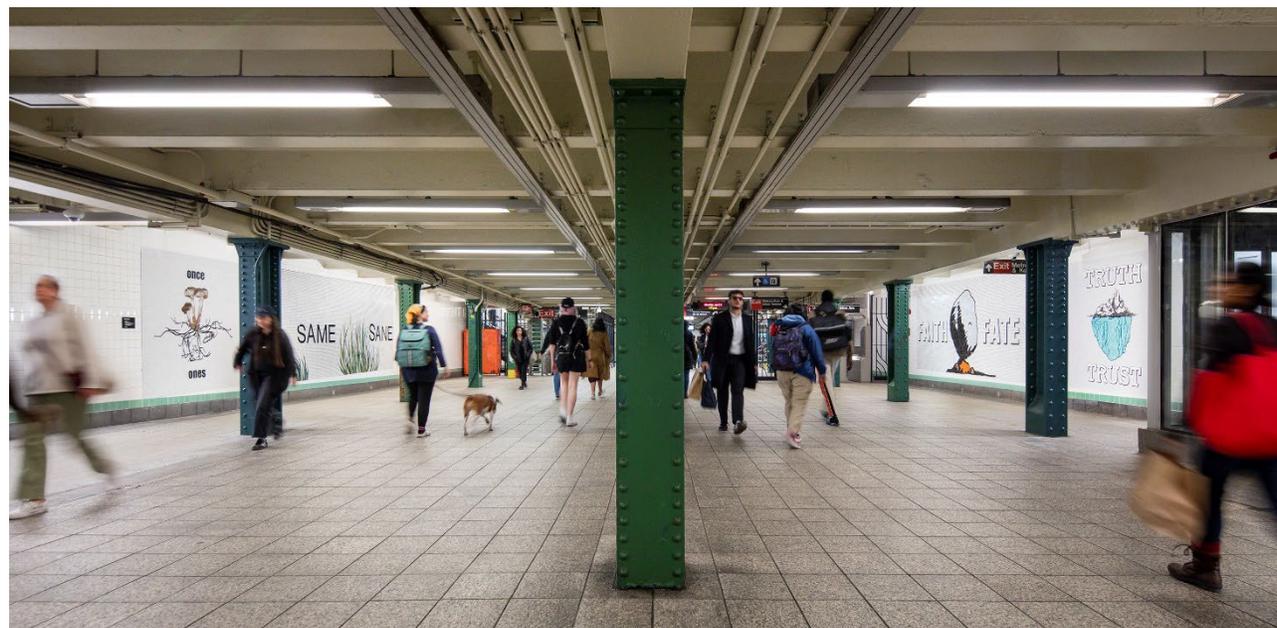


*Signs of Life* (2024) © Jackie Chang, NYCT Metropolitan Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photos: Nicholas Knight.

For the project, Chang created two new compositions to accompany her existing artwork for the station complex. The new artwork, bearing the same title as *Signs of Life*, juxtaposes seemingly unrelated words in marble cutout and graphic symbols in glass mosaic. One panel features the text “TRUTH” and “TRUST” with the image of an iceberg. The other depicts “ones” and “once” with an image of an Armillaria fungi, among one of the world's largest and oldest living organisms. The artwork by Chang is an intriguing interplay between graphic symbol and text. For Chang, a single word is a picture worth a thousand words, and its meaning is in constant flux.

“The concept for *Signs of Life* is centered on offering riders ‘food for thought’ as they travel through the station,” notes **artist Jackie Chang**. “The new works to the collection reflect the same spirit, inviting subway users to find its meaning by drawing from their personal life experiences and understanding.” The riders will find new personal meaning with each repeated encounter of the work as they journey through the station and through life.

In addition to the two new compositions, two existing panels featuring waves and the words “MANKIND” and “ITSELF” were refabricated and relocated to the Metropolitan Avenue mezzanine on the G line. The threads of messages in *Signs of Life* can now be experienced in its totality as the commuters rush through the passage of life.



*Signs of Life* (2024) © Jackie Chang, NYCT Metropolitan Av Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photos: Nicholas Knight.

## CHLOË BASS

Located at the newly reconfigured control area at the Lorimer Street on the L, *Personal Choice #5* by Chloë Bass invites riders to reflect on lived communal experience, connection, and proximity in New York City. The artwork is part of an ongoing series titled *Personal Choice*, a text and image-based project that pairs cropped found images sourced from the New York Public Library's Picture Collection with poetic text written by Bass.



*Personal Choice #5* (2023) © Chloë Bass, NYCT Lorimer St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photos: Nicholas Knight

*Personal Choice #5* depicts three groups of figures in areas of Williamsburg near the subway station. Beginning on the Brooklyn-bound side with a depiction of two Orthodox Jewish community members from a photo taken in the 1960s, the triptych progresses on the wall in the center mezzanine featuring an 1997 image of a diverse group of teenagers, and finishes on the Manhattan-bound side with a photographic depiction from 2005 of two men engaged in conversation. Together, these images encapsulate an inherent intimacy and anonymity of public life, serving as an outward reminder of a collective sense of hope and new beginnings.



*Personal Choice #5* (2023) © Chloë Bass, NYCT Lorimer St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photos: Nicholas Knight.

The text, rendered in cut metal lettering, reads: "Whenever I'm pulled under by the weight of all I miss, I take some consolation that I have known, and may yet know, another life." Spreading as a single sentence over the three mosaic panels allows the artwork to be read like an open book, with one panel serving as the front cover, another as the central spine, and the third as the back.



*Personal Choice #5* (2023) © Chloë Bass, NYCT  
Lorimer St Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts  
& Design. Photos: Nicholas Knight.

*Personal Choice #5* bridges the concept of place and human interaction with a message of remembrance that contemplates the evolution and change of neighborhoods, and the resiliency of New York and its inhabitants.

“The use of tender, gestural images points to the inherent intimacy of public life in a city where we live alongside more than 8 million other people, many of whom are different from us,” **artist Chloë Bass** says. “The depiction of non-white (or otherwise minority) people is a reminder of who we must remember to consider and call our neighbors.”

## ABOUT JACKIE CHANG

Jackie Chang is a noted artist and community activist. Over the last fifteen years, Chang has completed a number of public art commissions around the nation for a variety of civic and public institutions including the Minneapolis Public Library, the Charlotte Department of Corrections, Miami Children’s Courthouse, and the NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Chang has also played a critical role in developing many arts programs in New York City for community-based organizations including El Puente, BRIC and Groundswell Community Mural Project. She is committed to advancing creative practice as an integral part of social change.

## ABOUT CHLOË BASS

Chloë Bass is a multiform conceptual artist working in performance, situation, conversation, publication, and installation. Her work uses daily life as a site of deep research to address scales of intimacy: where patterns hold and break as group sizes expand. Bass has held numerous fellowships and residencies, including a 2022 – 2023 studio resident at Silver Art Projects, a 2020 – 2023 Faculty Fellow for the Seminar in Public Engagement at the Center for Humanities (CUNY Graduate Center), and 2020 – 2023 Lucas Art Fellow at Montalvo Art Center. Her projects have appeared nationally and internationally, including recent exhibits at Art + Practice, Skirball Cultural Center, Henry Art Gallery, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven, BAK basis voor actuele kunst, the Knockdown Center, the Kitchen, and elsewhere. She is an Associate Professor of Art at Queens College, CUNY, where she co-runs Social Practice CUNY with Gregory Sholette.

## 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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