



# Media Announcement

## MTA Arts & Design Launches New Posters and Art Cards Celebrating Transit and Connection



Artworks (top to bottom by column): *Going Green* (2026) © Violeta Encarnación; *Botanical Vibes* (2026) © Amrita Marino; *Under the Underground* (2026) © Nancy Blum; *The Kite Festival* (2026) © Dominic Bodden; *Portals* (2026) © Shadra Strickland. All artworks commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

(NEW YORK, NY — February 12, 2026) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to introduce a set of two new posters and three new art cards to be displayed on station platforms and subway cars throughout the transit system. The works will be on view through the end of 2026

The posters and art cards are part of MTA Arts & Design’s 40-year program to enhance the transit experience for MTA riders through artistic interventions that also include permanent art installations, digital art and photography displays in select stations, poetry, and musical performances.

“We’re thrilled to share this new collection of graphic artworks,” said **MTA Arts & Design Director Tina Vaz**. “Featuring original graphic art and themes of movement and connection, these posters and art cards offer opportunities for inspiration, joy, and reflection during riders’ daily journeys.”

### Posters

Amrita Marino’s *Botanical Vibes* highlights subway travel as a connection to New York City’s many parks, green spaces, and public gardens. Rendered in bold colors, the poster design depicts a joyful commuter’s arrival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, surrounded by twisting stems, vines, blooming flowers, birds, caterpillars, and other creatures.

Violeta Encarnación's ***Going Green*** offers a fantastical take on the daily commute from inside a subway car. Straphangers' hands grip a central pole, intertwining with vines, leaves, a pigeon, and a dog, highlighting connections to the natural world and to one another. The composition invites viewers to imagine how each character arrived and where they might be rushing to next.

### **Art Cards**

Nancy Blum's ***Portals*** focuses on our deep interconnection. The work urges care for forests and the environment by promoting mass transit. A landscape of tree trunks native to the New York area—Aspen, Ash and London Plane—appear, each distinguished by its bark. Below, a vivid cross-section reveals twisting roots reminiscent of subway maps, conceptually linking trees and transit as vital lifelines. Above, luminous stars reference subway colors, symbolizing navigation and travel.

Dominic Bodden's ***The Kite Festival*** captures a lively scene in Manhattan's Highbridge Park, where families and friends fly colorful kites under a bright blue sky. In the distance, the historic High Bridge, Water Tower, and city skyline frame the scene. Subway numbers on many kites serve as playful reminders of the convenience of reaching New York's attractions by public transit.

Shadra Strickland's ***Portals*** presents a surreal array of colorful doorways where passengers gather, ready for magical transport to new destinations. Against a dark backdrop, distant subway trains streak by with neon bursts of trailing lines, highlighting the theme of movement. Diverse characters and vibrant scenes celebrate New York's uniqueness—and the ease of exploring its endless attractions via public transit.

### **About the Artists**

**Violeta Encarnación** is a Cuban American artist based in New York City. She currently freelances on editorial projects, brand campaigns, and picture books. Violeta studied at the School of Visual Arts and has worked with clients such as The New York Times, Walmart, Penguin Random House, and has also lectured at educational institutions including SVA and Syracuse University.

**Amrita Marino** is an Indian-born, American illustrator living in the Hudson Valley New York after spending two decades in Brooklyn. She studied at School of Visual Arts in New York City. Her clients include Capital One, Penguin Random house, Starbucks, The New Yorker, The New York Times and MIT Technology Review.

**Nancy Blum** is a Brooklyn-based artist who has completed numerous public works including two Arts & Design Percent for Art projects. Her work has been exhibited at various venues including International Print Center, NY, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, Weatherspoon Art Museum and held in private and public collections like the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Boise Art Museum. Blum has an MFA from the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Growing up in New York City, **Dominic Bodden** spent time in Los Angeles before returning to Washington Heights. His clients have included The New York Times, Vanity Fair, Bloomsbury Publishing, and Smithsonian Magazine. He has received recognition and awards from American Illustration, the Society of Illustrators, the Art Directors Club, and

3x3 Illustration. Bodden received a BA from Art Center College of Design. He continues to study painting from life at the Art Students League of New York.

Raised in Atlanta, **Shadra Strickland** is an award-winning illustrator, author, and educator. Strickland's illustrations in her first picture book, *Bird* (written by Zetta Elliott), won her the Ezra Jack Keats Award and the 2009 Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe Award for New Talent. She's published with Bloomsbury, Simon and Schuster, Penguin Random House, Chronicle Books, and Lee and Low. Her books have received recognition from the American Library Association and Junior Library Guild. She studied at Syracuse University and received her M.F.A. in the Illustration As Visual Essay Program at School of Visual Arts.

## **About MTA Arts & Design**

Since 1985, MTA Arts & Design has delivered innovative arts programming throughout New York's transit system. Over four decades, Arts & Design has built a collection of award-winning art that reflects the diversity of the New York City region and makes travel a more engaging experience for millions of riders every day. The program has commissioned more than 400 permanent artworks and activated subway and railroad stations, train cars, and bus depots with MTA Music performances, Poetry in Motion, posters, photography, digital art, and special events.

## **About the Poster Program**

Initiated in 1991, Arts & Design's award-winning Poster program highlights diverse neighborhoods, destinations, and the vibrancy of New York metropolitan area. Each year, five to six artists are commissioned to create artworks that are produced as posters and art cards for display within the MTA system. Posters are available for sale at New York Transit Museum stores and [online](#).

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