



Arts & Design

## Media Announcement

### MTA Arts & Design Announces New Mosaic Installations on the L Line by Celebrated New York City Artists Katherine Bradford and Marcel Dzama



*No Less Than Everything Comes Together* (2021) © Marcel Dzama, NYC Transit Bedford Avenue Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Kris Graves.

(NEW YORK, NY — September 22, 2021) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce new mosaic artwork at stations on the L train (Canarsie Line); *Queens of the Night* by Katherine Bradford at the 1 Avenue Station, and *No Less Than Everything Comes Together* by Marcel Dzama at the Bedford Avenue Station. These installations culminate the upgrades and improvements at both stations as part of the L Train Project. Over the last two decades, ridership at the 1 Avenue Station has increased by 60% and the Bedford Avenue Station has become one of the busiest stations in Brooklyn.



*Queens of the Night* (2021) © Katherine Bradford, NYC Transit 1 Avenue Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Jason Mandela.

“Both of these projects celebrate the energy of the Lower East Side and Williamsburg, and the creative communities that have been home to so many diverse groups of people over time,” said **Sandra Bloodworth**, Director, MTA Arts & Design. She continued, “Katherine Bradford’s vibrant,

colorful figures radiate an energy that is mystical and inviting, welcoming riders to share in the communal activity of moving around the city. At Bedford Avenue, Marcel Dzama's spectacular vignettes provide delight and wonder, perfectly encapsulating the fantasy of New York that drives so many to visit or make a home in this city. Each artwork draws the viewer in and lets them know that they are somewhere unique."

## QUEENS OF THE NIGHT BY KATHERINE BRADFORD, 1 AVENUE STATION



*Queens of the Night* (2021) ©Katherine Bradford, NYC Transit 1 Avenue Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Jason Mandela.

Katherine Bradford's artwork, fabricated in glass mosaic by Mayer of Munich, was inspired by the vibrant community of people who use the 1 Avenue Station on 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan. Her ethereal and joyful compositions, totaling nearly 400 square feet, are located in the north and south Mezzanines, and in three of the newly opened staircases at the Avenue A end of the station.

"I'm pleased to have my work featured on the First Avenue stop on the L subway line, which is the train I take to my studio each day," shared **Katherine Bradford**. "Hopefully, *Queens of the Night* will transport train takers elsewhere, a brief moment of otherworldliness in the hustle and bustle of their day."

In the 1 Avenue's north Mezzanine, figures in lime green, aquamarine blue, and rosy pinks gather in a group (as riders do on subway platforms) and are depicted under the glow of a massive moon. Two characters from this assembly are also seen in the Avenue A northeast staircase. Caped heroes, a recurrent image in Bradford's body of work, guide riders in and out of the north west and south east stairs at Avenue A entrance in two panels subtitled *Superhero Responds*. In the 1st Avenue South Mezzanine, riders are greeted by a dusky blue individual donning a gown in a field of flowers.

The intriguing figures that populate Bradford's panels reflect the riders of the L train, creatives pursuing their dreams and the real-life heroes who provide essential services. In New York, these riders are dressed most often in black, which the artist believes is "merely a cloak over an inner life that is wildly colorful and unconventional". This group of figures expresses the energy of camaraderie when people are gathered together and inspires viewers to consider the outward expression of one's own interior vivacity.

## NO LESS THAN EVERYTHING COMES TOGETHER BY MARCEL DZAMA, BEDFORD AVENUE STATION



*No Less Than Everything Comes Together* (2021) © Marcel Dzama, NYC Transit Bedford Avenue Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Kris Graves.

At Bedford Avenue Station, Brooklyn based artist Marcel Dzama depicts the hopeful beauty of the sun and the moon's illuminated mysteries in four mosaic panels. Inspired by Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry", the sun and moon rise and set on the city and its constant flow of people throughout time. Depicted in radiant gold and dazzling blue, 400 square feet of glass mosaic fabricated by Mayer of Munich appear in locations at the mezzanine and new stairways at the Driggs Avenue end of the station.

**Marcel Dzama** states "In these works it is my intention to bring the sun, the sky, and the moon to the underground. What I love most about New York is its people, and for me it was important to represent them and all of their wonderful complexities and diverse beauty in the piece. People looking and quietly observing together. In the subway, it's always a togetherness that bonds us uniquely like no other place in the world."

The artwork draws upon the artist's early experiences coming to New York and living in Williamsburg, with scenes of graceful dancers, whimsical characters, and glowing sun and moon. Employing different illustration styles, the work presents a timeless tableau celebrating New York's history and its people.

In each theatric composition, an arabesque patterned curtain featuring fairytale figures provides an enchanting proscenium stage setting for these tableaux. The scenes are populated by elegant ballet performers that appear throughout his oeuvre of drawings and paintings. Mischievous characters pop up throughout and represents infamous Brooklynites from history such as Bugsy Siegel and Captain Jonathan Williams, founder of Williamsburg.

David Zwirner gallery's 69th Street location currently has a solo exhibition of works by Marcel Dzama on view through October 23. Presented in the exhibition are the original drawings Dzama created for the mosaic panels.

## **ABOUT KATHERINE BRADFORD**

Katherine Bradford (b. 1942, New York) lives and works in New York and Maine. She is represented by Canada, New York, Adams & Ollman, Portland, OR, and Campoli Presti, London & Paris. Her works have been exhibited at The Modern Art Museum Fort Worth, Texas; MoMA PS 1, New York; the Brooklyn Museum, New York; the Portland Museum of Art, Maine; the Addison Gallery of American Art, Massachusetts; the Weatherspoon Gallery, North Carolina; and the University of the Arts, Philadelphia. She has been honored with an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Her work is in the permanent collections of New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and the New York Public Library; the Portland Museum of Art, Maine; the Portland Museum of Art, Oregon; Farnsworth Museum, Maine; the ICA, Boston, Worcester Museum of Art, and Smith College Museum, all in Massachusetts; Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania; the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; and the University of Delaware. This fall, with Diedrick Brackens, she is the subject of a two-person exhibition at Carpenter Center for the Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. In 2022, she will be the subject of a traveling survey show originating at the Portland Museum of Art, Maine.

## **ABOUT MARCEL DZAMA**

Marcel Dzama was born in 1974 in Winnipeg, Canada, where he received his BFA in 1997 from the University of Manitoba. Since 1998, his work has been represented by David Zwirner. Dzama has exhibited widely in solo and group presentations throughout the United States and abroad. In 2016, the artist created the costume and stage design for New York City Ballet's *The Most Incredible Thing*, a performance based on Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale and an installation in the Promenade of the David H. Koch Theater as part of the New York City Ballet Art Series. Work by the artist is held in museum collections worldwide, including the Dallas Museum of Art; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; and the Vancouver Art Gallery. Dzama lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

## **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  
Andrei Berman  
aberman@mtahq.org

### **CONNECT**

Instagram: @mtaartsdesign  
Twitter: @MTAArtsDesign  
Facebook: @MTAArtsDesign