



Arts &
Design

Media Announcement

MTA Arts & Design Unveils Jewel-Like Artwork *Forestation Syncopation* by Sandy Litchfield at LIRR New Hyde Park Station



Forestation Syncopation (2021) © Sandy Litchfield, LIRR New Hyde Park Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Etienne Frossard.

(NEW YORK, NY — June 15, 2022) MTA Arts & Design announces *Forestation Syncopation*, a new public art commission for the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) New Hyde Park Station, situated in two westbound platform shelters and one eastbound platform shelter. Each composition portrays a distinct view of a landscape impression, as if catching a glimpse of morning sun before work, or the flicker of light through the trees on the way home.

“Sandy Litchfield’s delightful jewel-like glass artwork captures the rhythm of riding the train to and from Long Island, watching the urban landscape give way to nature,” said MTA Arts & Design Director **Sandra Bloodworth**. “The three compositions are visually mesmerizing and daily patterns of daylight will provide an ever-changing experience on the daily commute.”

Forestation Syncopation references the rhythmic flows and interruptions of a musical score. Syncopation is a musical term that involves a variety of rhythms which are in some way unexpected, and often considered a vital element in holding a musical track together. Forestation is the establishment of forest growth on areas that either had it previously or lacked it naturally. Together, these two concepts describe a continuous landscape that binds and connects the urban townscape to the tree-lined streets and parks of New Hyde Park.

The artwork unveils the ways natural and built environments interact, as seen from the train journey through New Hyde Park and the surrounding area. As stated by **Litchfield**, “This project originated from snapshots I took on the Long Island Rail Road from my window seat on the train. My hope is that these colorful glass windows offer an enhanced dwelling place for commuters who wait in the shelters in anticipation of their next train ride. Each window portrays a distinct and enigmatic view – more an impression than a complete scene.”

With an emphasis on color and light, the artwork incorporates the painterly application of watercolor complemented by linear details that define intersecting edges. Blending geometric and organic shapes, these long horizontal abstract landscapes are conscious of the architectural structure they

inhabit. Evergreens and oaks mingle with streetlights and water towers; electric wires extend into maple tree branches; clusters of houses intersperse with forest islands and leafy backyards. The everyday moments captured in these images celebrate the sylvan suburbs of New Hyde Park. The artwork was translated into 36 laminated glass panels by Mayer of Munich, using a hybrid process of hand drawing, painting and digital technologies.



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ABOUT SANDY LITCHFIELD

Sandy Litchfield was born in New York City and now lives in Amherst, Massachusetts where she is an Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts' Department of Architecture. She received her BFA from the University of Colorado in Boulder and her MFA from UMass Amherst. In 2007, she attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her work is focused on landscape as a construct for understanding place and notions of belonging. Working primarily as a painter, she merges imagery from natural and urban environments, underscoring the interconnected relationship between humans and the places they inhabit. These visual concepts are informed by a diverse collection of imagery, including old maps, historic pictures, and photographs. Litchfield has exhibited in numerous museums. Her work has been recognized with grants and commissions from the NYC Public Art for Public Schools, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Puffin Foundation.

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, 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.

PRESS CONTACT

MTA Press Office
(212) 878-7440
David Steckel
david.steckel@mtahq.org

CONNECT

Instagram: @mtaartsdesign
Twitter: @MTAArtsDesign
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