



Arts &  
Design

## Media Announcement

### Arts & Design Reveals Barbara Takenaga's Stunning Artwork for Metro-North Railroad White Plains Station



*Forte (Quarropas)* (2020) © Barbara Takenaga, MNR White Plains Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Steven Bates.

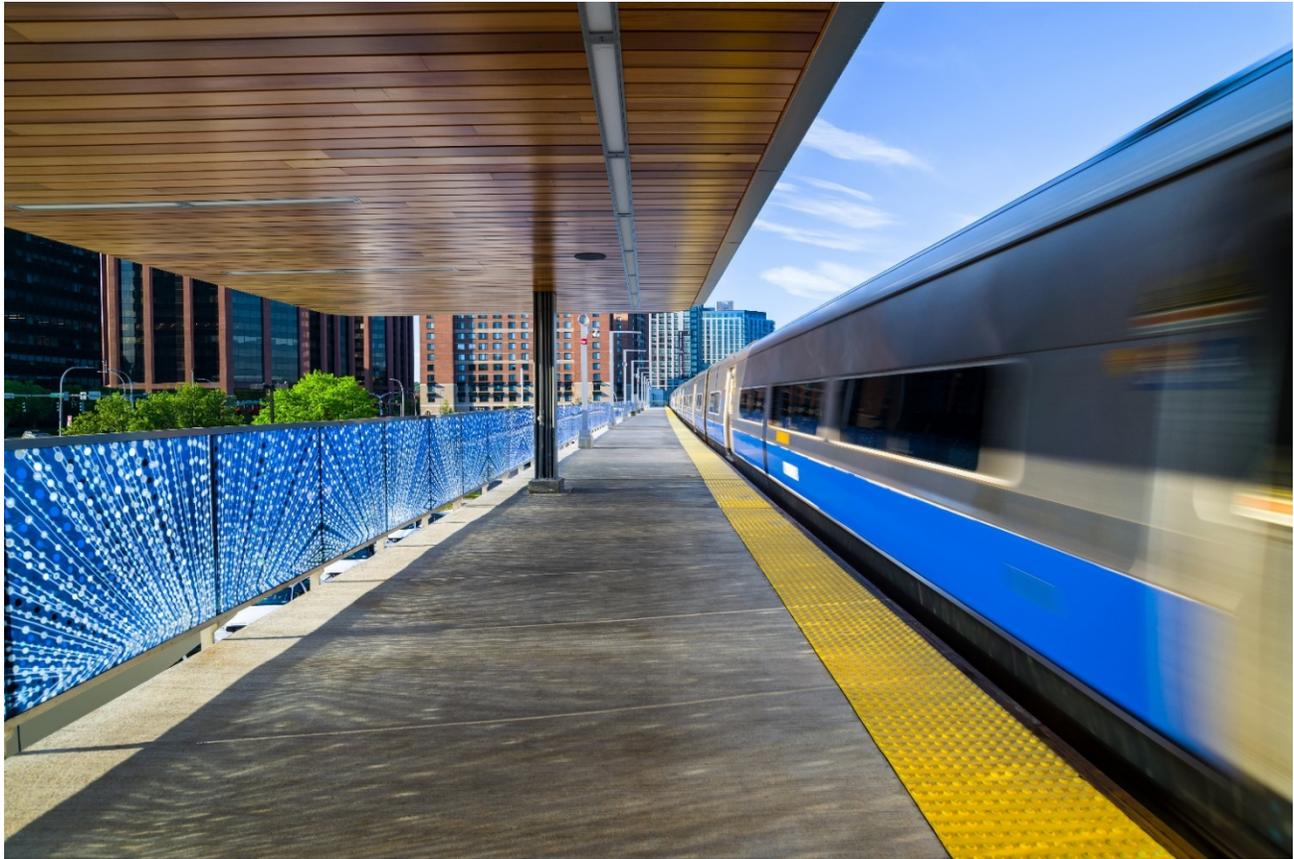
(NEW YORK, NY — October 21, 2021) MTA Arts & Design is pleased to announce new artwork for the Metro-North Railroad station in White Plains. The mosaic and laminated glass work by celebrated artist Barbara Takenaga for the White Plains Station features the artist's signature stylized abstract forms. The piece's deep vibrant blue undulating movement references rail travel, the history of the city, and its exuberant energy.

"Barbara brings her dazzling, rhythmic forms to the rhythms of our daily commute, energizing us as we travel with her infinite lines that seem to propel us along our journey," stated **Sandra Bloodworth**, Director MTA Arts & Design. "*Forte (Quarropas)* and *Blue Rails (White Plains)*, installed at Metro North's White Plains Station, with their deep blue and vibrant hues, has the potential to transport our routine of commuting into a unexpected cosmic journey."



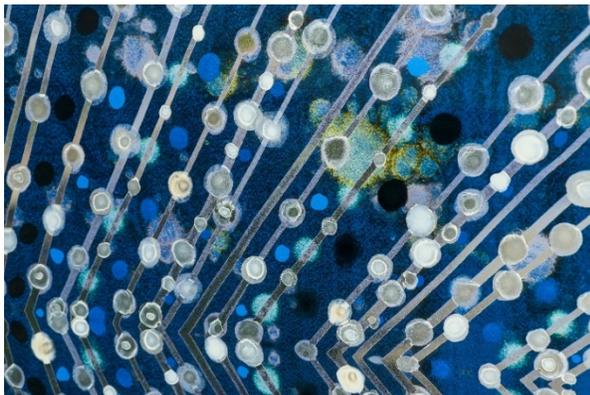
Mosaic artwork *Forte (Quarropas)*, the native name for White Plains, features a sweeping composition of dynamic sky with flowing blue water, evoking both a celestial aspect and referencing the role water has played throughout the history of White Plains. Located on the wall directly facing the main entrance of the station lobby, the deep sea of blue and

splashes of iridescent green to pink and aqua sparkle and come alive following the footsteps of the commuters passing by the lobby wall.



*Blue Rails (White Plains)* (2020) © Barbara Takenaga, MNR White Plains Station. Commissioned by MTA Arts & Design. Photo: Steven Bates.

*Blue Rails (White Plains)*, the artwork in laminated glass, is located on the side platform overlooking the station's parking lot and Hamilton Avenue, a main artery connecting the city's downtown. The long horizontal image is composed of a series of mirrored abstract patterns in a forward and backward movement in space. Each composition is anchored by the radiating light from a misty horizon suggesting the white mist and the disappearing tracks as they move away from the station. Animated by shifting light throughout the day, *Blue Rails (White Plains)* is a visual play to the "rhythm of the rails".



imagined references to landscape — filtered through my working process, which is visually abstract and stylized, and at the same time pays homage to the City of water and white mists."

**Barbara Takenaga** stated, "White Plains has a rich and diverse past, from its modern history tracing way back to the presence of Native Americans. The translation of the wonderful Weckquaeskeck name Quarropas, meaning 'white marshes' or 'plains of white,' still continues today in a very resonant way. I am interested in the poetry and

*Forte (Quarropas)* mosaic artwork is fabricated by Mosaika Art & Design and *Blue Rails (White Plains)* laminated glass is fabricated by Mayer of Munich.

## **ABOUT BARBARA TAKENAGA**

Barbara Takenaga is known for swirling, abstract paintings in stunningly detailed compositions. She paints her kaleidoscopic, geometric compositions of dots and lines completely freehand in a practice both meticulous and meditative. Many of her compositions begin with a single circle from which the forms undulate, radiate, and recede in seemingly infinite space. Most of Takenaga's paintings are made on panel or linen with acrylic, and sometimes metallic, reflective paints. Her dazzling repetition of forms suggests the inherent yet sometimes incomprehensible logic of both the cosmic and the cellular, while spontaneous twists and puckers preserve the elements of wonder and surprise.

Barbara Takenaga was the Mary A. and William Wirt Warren Professor of Art at Williams College, a position she held from 1985 to 2018. She divides her time between Williamstown, MA, and New York City, where she maintains a studio. Her work has been widely exhibited at institutions including Mass MOCA, North Adams, MA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO; National Academy Museum, New York; Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia, PA; and International Print Center, 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.

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