

PRESENT DAY

- The MTA wasn't a big fan of graffiti art
 - Painted carts with graffiti resistant paints
 - Guarded trains with fences, barbed wires and German Shepherds
 - Started the Clean Car Program in 1984. Workers scrubbed graffiti out of carts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- While Graffiti is illegal, the mosaics within the subway tunnels still remain as a large tourist attraction in NYC.
- Subway art in general was so important to NYC history because it was a form of expression for artists in under represented communities and gave NYC more cultural attributes.



Exit NYC Subway Art-
Mosaics & Graffiti

H I S T O R Y



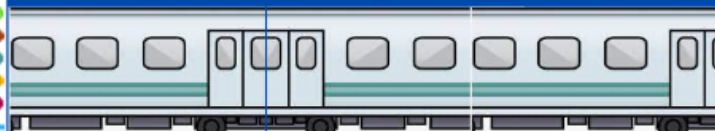
NYC Subway Art- Mosaics & Graffiti



H I S T O R Y



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History



In 1904, the NYC subway system first opened up. Then, in 1985, subway art boomed with the launch of the MTA Arts and Design Program, created with the purpose of delivering a sense of community, diversity, and connection in NYC subways where people are always in a rush. NYC subway art forms include graffiti and mosaics because of their resilience. These art forms reflect popular NYC themes of home, individuality, freedom, expression, and more. Such graffiti and mosaics have become staple landmarks denoting our location, but not many know the history behind these art forms.



NEXT STOP:

GRAFFITI ART

- Graffiti art was invented in 1967 by a high school student in Philadelphia known as Cornbread. He wanted to impress a girl by spray painting his name nickname all over the city
- This spread to major cities by 1970 and people starting spray painting their nickname all over train carts
- Subway tunnels and carts were graffiti artists galleries. It way a form of expression for these artists. Most of these artists were from Black and Latinx communities.

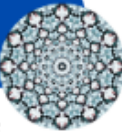
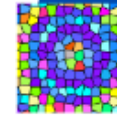


NEXT STOP:

MOSAIC ART

- Invented by architects George C. Heins and Christopher Grant la Farge
- Made of ceramic plaques and tiles
- Gave commuters and tourists something to look at while waiting
- Subway tile art was meant to be easy to clean

Many of these you have probably seen before but never really looked at in a rush to get in and out of the stations. Here's what some of these popular murals we all walk past are about.



Do You Recognize Any Of These?



This mosaic found on 23rd street was created by William Wegman, depicting a dog dressed in human clothing, resembling how everyone waits around for the subway to arrive.

To the right is Faith Ringgold's "Flying Home Harlem Heroes and Heroines", from 1996, on 125th street. This mosaic was created to celebrate all of the Harlem figures who made its culture so lively.



This mural on 42nd street and Times Square was made in 2002 by Roy Lichtenstein. This station is the busiest of all the MTA stations and this mural uses comic like art to depict the nature of the subways.

