



The Art of Rapid Central Station

A movement of people, ideas, and dreams

Art inspires us. It stirs our imagination. It motivates us in our daily lives and moves us to do better things. Recognizing the importance and impact of public art, the ITP Board, following guidelines from the Federal Transit Administration, set aside funds to create an art installation that will be shared and enjoyed by the entire Grand Rapids community for years to come. An art procurement committee, made up of art professionals, artists, and Rapid staff, was responsible for recommending works for the collection.

The paintings, sculptures, and mixed media were selected for their perspective on public transportation, travel, and the movement of people.





Brian Alexander

“Common Roots”

Zinc & Steel

“This piece is primarily about commonalities. It’s an abstraction on the idea that we are all different. But when we are in transit our differences fade – like migrating birds or fish headed upstream. **As we move together we are a collection of elements, blending and functioning as a single entity with a common purpose.** People still thrive on individual identity and space though – and this commonality eventually separates them again.”

"Art that occupies public spaces should be seen as jewels in the crown of a community. **Artwork should provide surprise, pleasure, and inspire thought.** The intent of my work is to engage us with light and vibrant movement through the space and time we all share together."

John A.C. Despres

"Come On Over"

Steel & Cable





John McDonald

"Jayden's World"

Oil on Linen

"The art here is functional; it deals with movement and travel. **My own work deals with diversity and travel – it's what you actually see and experience as you move through Grand Rapids.**

Having artwork in Rapid Central Station is a big plus. I love public art and I admire mass transit. They are both real gifts to the people from a city that is growing up. Now you don't have to make a formal visit to a museum to enjoy art; it's just there."

"When we travel we don't anticipate having any kind of an experience at all. It's 'lost time.' **My intent was to put an image into a public space that would surprise, and create an experience you didn't expect – and to make that time useful, and thought-provoking.** These images capture the artificial sense of time and human interaction we experience within a shared public space."

Carlos Ferguson

"London Bus"

"London Bus White"

Cyanotype & Gum Bichromate on Paper





Daleene Menning

"The Ride"

Porcelain

"I think public art should be site specific and should embody something unique that speaks to the people and the space.

'The Ride' took about a year to complete, from start to finish. In my research I rode the bus many times, saw the idea emerge, and went back to take photos of the sites I wanted to include. The people in the mural are real, pictured doing what they were doing at the time."



"I wanted to celebrate the space by creating a sense of fireworks or explosions for people entering the lobby. It faces east and catches the light as the sun comes up and then takes on different looks during the day as the glass, mirror, and reflective tiles catch the changing light.

I wanted to create something that related to the space – something which is very contemporary."



José Luis Narezo
"Estrellas de Pueblo"
Mosaic Tile





Michael Pflighaar

"Urban Transport"

"Over The River"

Oil on Board

"I used my own visual language to create something specifically for Rapid Central Station. More than just showing the viewer a bus moving through the city, I used chairs and ladders in these pieces to represent people traveling through identifiable Grand Rapids landmarks. **It all works together to create a real warmth and human touch.**"

"When people first view '2D Or Not 2D', they just see a bus. But when they move closer or look at it from a different perspective they can see a lot of different layers behind the image that creates an optical illusion.

I like to be lighthearted and fun, but also intriguing. **I want to put a smile on people's faces while they are waiting or traveling through and give the eye something to play with.**"

John O'Hearn

"2D Or Not 2D...That Is The Bus"

Sheet Metal



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