



Photo © MTA

Hand painted panels, Lighting

A disarmingly simple artwork, placed in the unused subway station at Myrtle Avenue in 1980, has been restored. Masstransiscope turns the subway into a movie machine, presenting a colorful, animated «moving picture» to commuters as the train moves through the tunnel. With heavy cleaning by volunteers, the artwork became visible again in 2008.

The artwork has been viewed by millions of commuters from subway cars leaving the northbound platform of the DeKalb Avenue station on the express track. The 228 hand-painted panels are viewed through a series of vertical slits set into a specially constructed housing that runs the full 300' length of the old station. The piece works on the principle of the Zoetrope, a 19th century optical toy.

The movement of the train passing in front of the exhibition creates the illusion of a 20-second animated movie. In a regular movie the film passes through a projector to create an illusion of motion and the audience sits still. With Masstransiscope it is the audience that moves while the film stays in place.

— MTA Arts & Design

Brillante Idee eines experimentellen Filmemachers für eine Subway Installation, unübertroffen in der Originalität und Umsetzung seines Konzeptes. Brand nimmt die Grundprämisse des Films – bewegte Bilder, movement – und dreht die Voraussetzungen um. Es ist der Zug der sich bewegt – vorbei an statischen Bildern (filmisch ausdrückt könnte man sie als «Frames» bezeichnen), die er entlang ein stillgelegten Subway Trasse installiert hat. Nur der fahrende Gast kommt in den Genuss dieser Installation. Dabei wird der U-Bahnwagen selbst quasi zum «laufenden Filmprojektor». Mittels der Reisegeschwindigkeit sehen wir durch die Fenster einen Animationsfilm, der sich im Vorbeifahren abspielt. Einmalig gekonnte Kunst!

— Renate Stürmer



DeKalb Avenue

(Brooklyn)

Bill Brand

Masstransiscope, 1980 (Restored 2008)

Art on subwaycar window – right side – after DeKalb St



Attention: Art on subwaycar window – right side – after DeKalb Station. Only on Q-Line in the direction to Manhattan!

- YouTube: Behind the Scenes with Bill Brand's «Masstransiscope»

- Bill Brand: Masstransiscope (1980) | www.billbrand.net/public-art



New York City Subway 31 Contemporary Arts & Design Stations Tour: Station 15

DeKalb Avenue (Brooklyn) | Bill Brand | Masstransiscope | 1980 (Restored 2008)

Documentation

001



002



New York City Subway 31 Contemporary Arts & Design Stations Tour: Station 15

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Documentation

003



004



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Documentation

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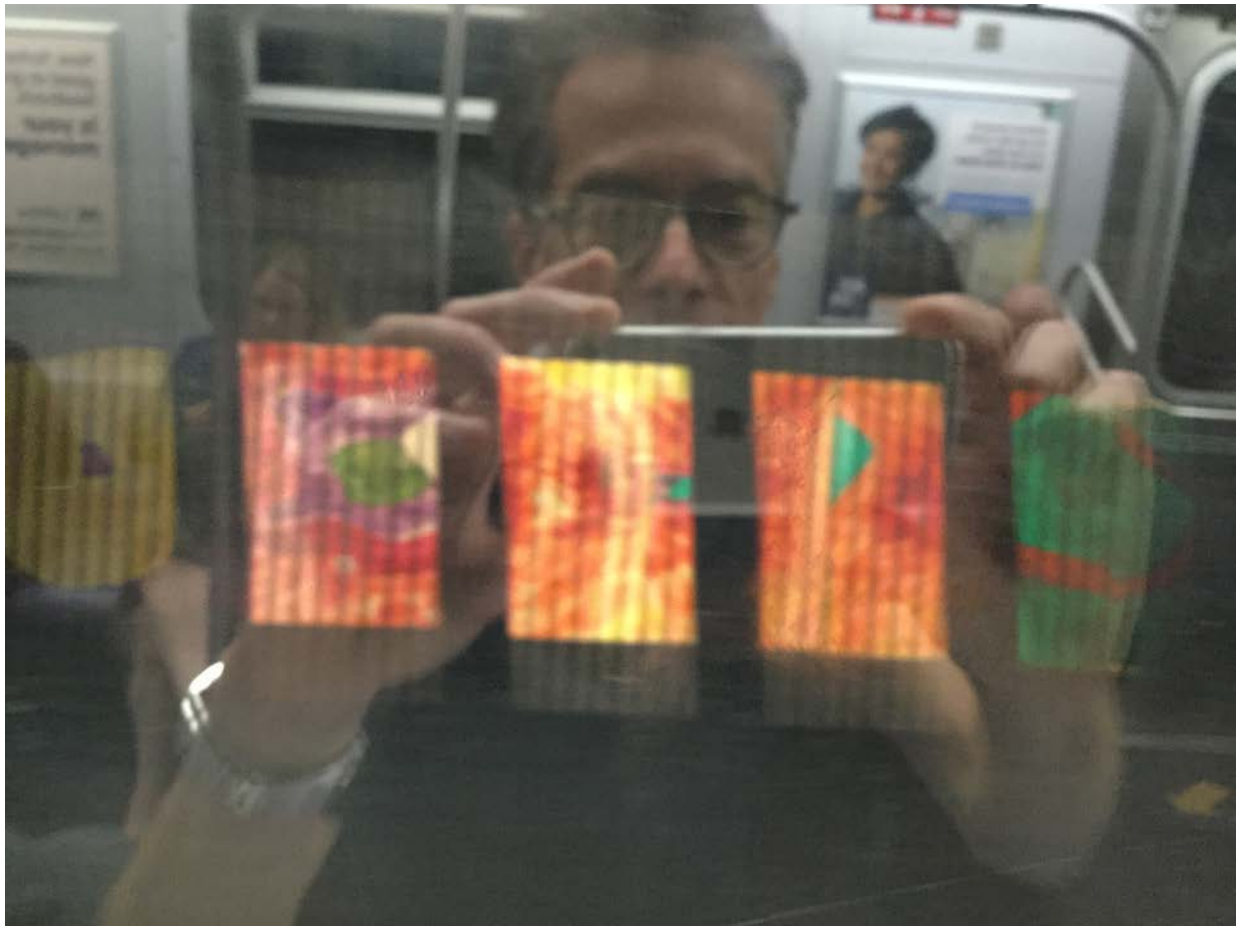


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009



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012



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013



014



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015



016



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New York City Subway 31 Contemporary Arts & Design Stations Tour: Station 15

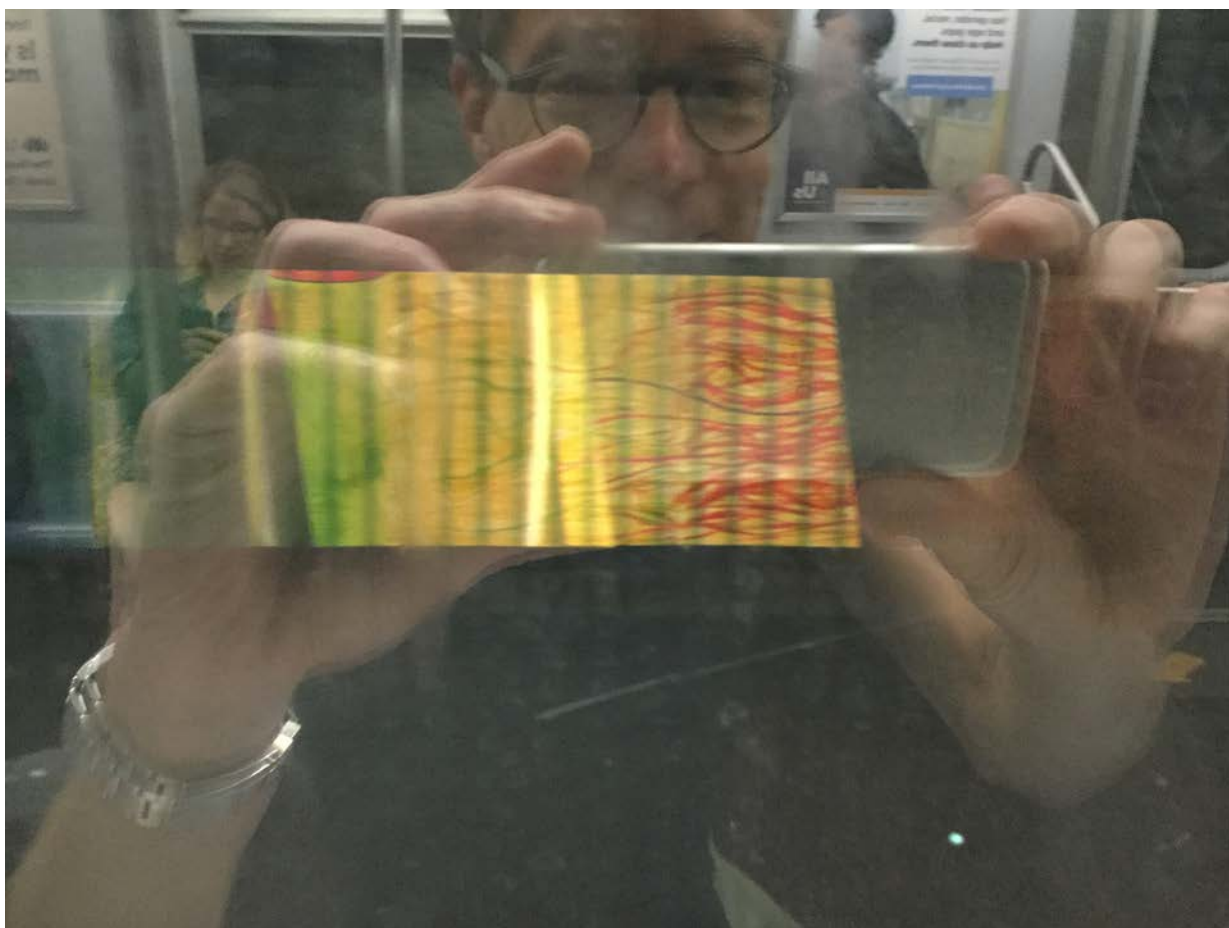
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