

New York City Subway 31 Contemporary Arts & Design Stations Tour: Station 19

Tour Selection by Patrick J. Schnieper

Documentation



Photo © MTA



Grand Central - 42nd Street
(Manhattan)

Christopher Sproat
V-Beam, 2000

Art on 7 platform



Functional stainless steel ceiling sculpture on 7 platform
incorporating lighting, signage, LED, and fan system

V-Beam is a functional structure and an aesthetic statement. Artist Christopher Sproat has combined standard transportation hardware – signage, air circulation, and safety equipment – with his artistic sensibility to integrate the sculpture into the transit environment. The artwork takes the form of a large V, which Sproat judged to be the most practical shape in terms of access and stability, and is equipped with extruded aluminum panels and light-emitting diodes to carry out its functions. «Rather than make an artistic or decorative statement and add it to the station so that the viewer knows «this is art,» I chose to make the entire space exuberant and unique,» the artist says.

— MTA Arts & Design

Erster Eindruck, man denkt diese Station müsste so sein – sie hat die Anmutung einer retro-futuristischen Schlagader. Das betont industrielle Design dieses Werkes schöpft aus vorgefertigten Teilen, die im Verkehrsbau und Transitbereich Einsatz finden. Die Anordnung und Ausstattung der Lichtkörper bilden das Rückgrat dieser Installation.

Der Künstler selbst wird so zitiert: «Anstatt eine künstlerische oder dekorative Aussage zu machen und sie der Station hinzuzufügen, damit der Betrachter weiß 'dies ist Kunst', entschied ich mich dafür den gesamten Raum vital und einzigartig zu gestalten». Voll gelungen, methinks.

— Renate Stürmer



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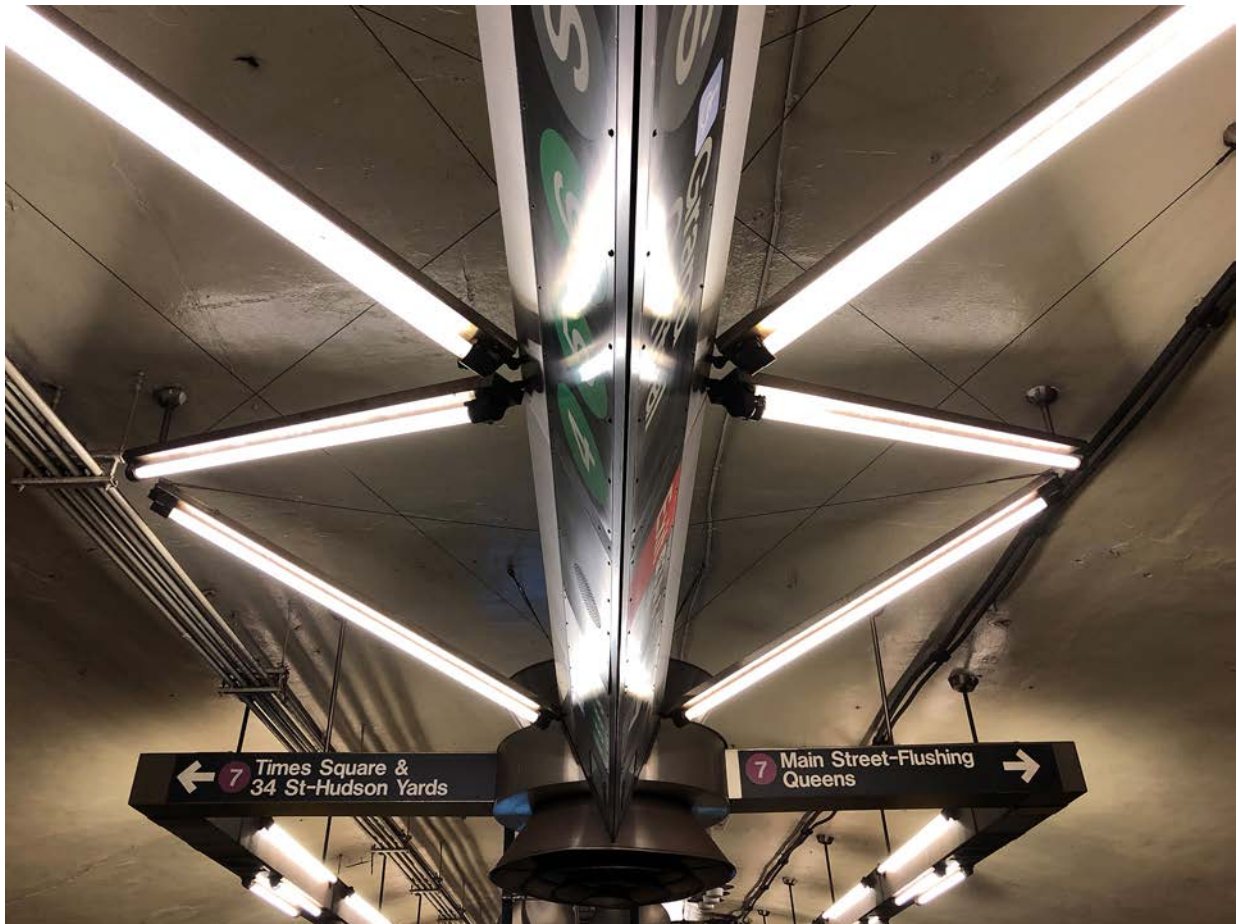
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