

HYPERALLERGIC

Sensitive to Art & its Discontents

New Subway Art Installation Brings the Home into the Commute

by [Allison Meier](#) on June 6, 2014



Laura F. Gibellini, “Dom (Variations)” (2013), laminated glass in the Seneca Avenue station (all images courtesy the artist, commissioned and owned by MTA Arts for Transit & Urban Design, photographs by Stephen Scott Gross).

Three stations on the M subway line in Ridgewood, Queens now have permanent art installations that bring moments of home into the commute.

Commissioned by MTA Arts for Transit & Urban Design, “Dom (Variations)” by artist [Laura F. Gibellini](#) progresses from a glass mosaic and photo engraved tile bedroom scene [in the Fresh Pond Road Station](#) to laminated glass images of hanging laundry [in the Forest Avenue](#) and the [Seneca Avenue](#) stations.

“What interested me about the subway is that it’s a very strange place, both familiar and alien, a space of transition that takes one elsewhere,” she told Hyperallergic. “In this case, I was thinking how the subway takes people from their home to the working space, which are two very different settings, with different politics and coordinates. I was interested in the tension of

public and private that it all entails.”



Laura F. Gibellini, "Dom (Variations)" (2013), glass mosaic & photo-engraved tiles in the Fresh Pond Station



Laura F. Gibellini, "Dom (Variations)" (2013), laminated glass

Much of Gibellini's art concentrates on ideas of place and home, and how we represent it. This is the Madrid-born artist's first public art project, and as an immigrant to New York creating art for a neighborhood of immigrants, she wanted to reflect some of that personal life in the public space.

"When I went to see the locations for the project, I saw that people still hang clothes outdoors there, which is something we do in Spain and Italy, so it reminded me of my own home immediately," she explained.

Where the Fresh Pond mosaic bedroom is open and reflective, featuring a bed strewn with clothes against wallpaper where organic shapes creep in, the twelve windows let in the light outdoors, offering views to trees and buildings through the ethereal clothes printed and hand painted on glass. Gibellini stated it was important to her to represent the clothes, these small objects of private life which are left so openly in public, to bring a human element to the often anonymous feel of transit. Most importantly, the project aims to remind travelers of home as they depart and return to it each day, the domestic imagery shadowing them on their paths.



Laura F. Gibellini, "Dom (Variations)" (2013), laminated glass in the Forest Avenue station



Laura F. Gibellini, "Dom (Variations)" (2013), laminated glass in the Seneca Avenue station



Laura F. Gibellini, "Dom (Variations)" (2013), glass mosaic & photo-engraved tiles in the Fresh Pond Station

[Laura F. Gibellini's "Dom \(Variations\)"](#) is on permanent view in the Fresh Pond Road, Forest Avenue, and Seneca Avenue stations on the M line in Ridgewood, Queens.

Related

[New York MTA to Roll Out a Public Art App](#)In "News"

[A Subway Platform Becomes a Front Porch](#)In "Reactor"

[The Persistence of Time at Grand Central Terminal](#)In "Street"