

Above the Immigration Hall, Walking New York

Describing the theme of her narrative relief panels mounted on a 300-foot wide space above the immigration booths, sculptor Deborah Masters emphasizes the familiar, as well as the diverse in New York. "I look at New York through a different lens, to show the many aspects that make the city so fantastic," she said.

When passengers reach the third site-specific installation "Walking New York," they gaze up at a startling series of 28 reliefs - each measuring 8 feet high by 10 feet wide across a space as wide as the length of a football field. The reliefs are cast in a fiberglass modified gypsum, with a depth of relief of up to six inches and a weight of some 300 pounds each. The panels are vividly painted to show scenes of people riding the subway, working on Wall Street, crossing important bridges like the Brooklyn and Manhattan and enjoying city diversions, such as parks and outdoor restaurants. The large number of murals allowed the artist to reveal the complex layers of the city - the energy generated by a parade, the fatigue of factory workers, the joy of a wedding and the colors of its many ethnic markets. "These are scenes I believe returning New Yorkers will recognize immediately and visitors will anticipate eagerly," said Masters.

Masters attended Bryn Mawr College, where she studied with Chris Cairns and Peter Agostini, and the New York Studio School, where she studied with George Spaventa, Clement Meadmore, and Nick Carone. Following art school, she spent three years in Italy studying and working on her sculpture. She has had a number of one-person shows in the Northeast and group shows around the country, and has completed 10 major commissions in the United States.

The JFK IAT Art Committee wishes to thank these people and organizations who assisted in the conservation and installation of the artworks: Arcadia Electrical Co, Inc., Matt Durcan, EDI, Gerlach Frames, Nancy Hamilton, Interstate Drywall Corporation, MORE Specialized Transportation, Peter Ruggiero, Pete Sjolund, Steve Tatti with W.J.Leyman and Sons, Scott Yocom



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