



## Downtown Line 1: Art-In-Transit

Part 3 of Connect's series on the Downtown Line 1 casts the spotlight on the artworks to be found in every station. Ms Ong-Koh Wee Nah, LTA's Director of Architecture Design & Commuter Infrastructure Development, talks about why commuters should pause to appreciate the art in the upcoming DTL1 stations.

### Why do you need art in the MRT stations?

We call it the Art-in-Transit programme, where commuters can find public art in all the new train stations. What we want to do is to use art to beautify the stations and environment. Each station's art work is carefully chosen and integrated, to reflect the individual identity of each station.

### What inspires the architecture of each station?

Stations are architecturally unique so commuters can identify that station's location. Inspiration comes from many sources. The DTL1 Bugis station, for instance, reflects the Bugis culture's traditional "ikat" (diamond) motif so you will be able to spot it on the glass balustrade panels. The Chinatown station entrance, which is elliptical-shaped, reflects the adjacent Hong Lim Complex's large elliptical façade.

# Art-In-Transit in Downtown Line Stations

## **Chinatown:** *Flying Colours* by Cheo Chai Hiang

The artwork attempts to translate the visual eyesore of hanging clothes on poles outside windows into one which is festive and celebratory. As commuters walk past the artwork, they will see a subtle change in colours, giving the illusion that the clothes are flying in the wind.

## **Telok Ayer Station:** *Bulbous Abode* by Lim Shing Ee

Lim creates a whimsical dreamscape of large rocks depicting primitive monuments which form a backdrop for Chinese immigrants of old, with colourful man-made shadows marking out spaces to achieve converging points. The work which adorns the station's walls, floors and columns, is inspired by the name Telok Ayer which means "Bay Water".

## **Downtown Station:** *Leaves* by Jason Lim

Inspired by the biological structure of bamboo leaves, Lim draws a relationship between the dense cell network of the leaves to the intricate networks associated with businesses and financial services in the vicinity. The work is finished in mosaic and resembles the vein and cell structure of the leaves.

## **Bayfront:** *When the Ship Comes In* by Lee Wen

"When The Ship Comes In" commemorates Singapore as an important port of call for ships in the early days, which saw the meeting of ships from different countries and cultures. The mural is composed of a collage of images of ships drawn by young Singaporeans, ages 7 to 12 based on actual historical ship models as well as pure fantasy and imagination. Through these ships, we not only recall our history but also project the children's hopes for the future serving as a concrete archive of collective social memory.

## **Promenade:** *Earthcake* by Ana Prvacki

"Earthcake" draws relation between the earth's layers and the thousand layer cakes. The artist creates a collage of earth and local desserts which depicts the unearthing of the layers of Singapore's history, culture, growth and development, celebrating the food culture as an important language of our identity and unifying elements of our people.



## **Bugis:** *Untitled* by Patrick Chia

Working with the constraints and opportunities within the station, this ephemeral piece is intended to be experienced over time by the commuters in their daily passage. It is meant to engage each commuter in his or her own moments. Some might notice and understand immediately. Some might suddenly go "ahhh.." after passing by it every day for years. Some might experience it differently each time they pass. Some might be totally oblivious except in their subconscious.

- 1 Bugis Downtown Line station featuring a piece by Patrick Chia.
- 2 Bayfront Station featuring "When the Ship Comes In" by Lee Wen.
- 3 Telok Ayer Station featuring "Bulbous Abode" by Lim Shing Ee.
- 4 Chinatown Station featuring "Flying Colours" by Cheo Chai Hiang.