



art In TRANSIT

DC Creates! Public Art is proud to announce the selection of DC's own **Sam Gilliam** to complete the **Takoma Metro Underpass Project**. Two artists contributed their thoughts on this project and the artist chosen.

DIGITAL IMAGES | PROVIDED BY SAM GILLIAM



MARIE RINGWALD | artist and panelist

How fitting to write about the concept of journey as it relates to the planned placement of Sam Gilliam's hand blown Italian glass and marble mosaic, ***From a Model to a Rainbow***, at the Takoma Metro station. Journeys take us from one place to another, one mindset to another, and from one landscape to another. We journey alone or with divergent groups.

During this project, individual and group efforts intersected. The community joined with the DCCA and Washington Metro Area Transit Authority's Art in Transit program to select and support Sam Gilliam's unique, gorgeous and elegant vision.

The Takoma Mural Committee was formed in the fall of 2008 with the purpose of placing art at the station to welcome people to the Takoma area. Composed of neighbors, business folks and politicians, the committee was backed by the community's extraordinary interest and encouragement. DCCA funded and Metro Arts defended the community's efforts. DCCA and Metro Arts' continuing and expanding endorsement of public art is adding a new dimension to the face of public art in DC.



TIM TATE | visual artist

When I saw the incredible field of semi-finalists for the Takoma Park Metro Public Art project I was very impressed with the overall caliber of the artists under consideration.

However, when the DC Commission has a chance for a Sam Gilliam piece of public art, it seemed their responsibility to act upon it. Sam Gilliam represents one of the most successful and internationally known DC artists of the last 40 years. It was wonderful to hear that the Commission chose him as the finalist. In a time when it was thought to be prudent to move away from DC to further an artist's career, he has proved to artists and collectors that living and working in this city not only does not hamper your career, but that it can be a valuable asset.

He is recognized as being amongst the foremost African-American Color Field Painters and is an inspiration and role model for all emerging artists in the region. A product of the DC public school system, he represents the best of what DC can offer. I congratulate the Commission on this superb addition to the Washington Public Art collection.