

Public Art on the Tamsui Line



During the trial stage of public art on the Taipei Metro, the Tamsui line was selected as the trial line because of its rich local characteristics and because it is the only line with underground, elevated and ground-level stations. The public art at Shuanglian Station was selected through open competition. The mosaic collages on the "Little Trail" and the walls of the children's slide were produced with the cooperation of the students and teachers of Shuanglian Elementary School and Rixin Elementary School nearby the sites.

■ Shuanglian Station

Dawning Sail

Artist: Wanting Ching & Pi-Fang Yang

Dimensions (cm): H240 x L4224

Medium: Porcelain enamel

Completion Date: September 1996

Location: Concourse Level

Selection Method: Open competition

Cost: Artist fee NT\$500,000

Fabricated by station civil contract: about NT\$9,500,000

Along with the commercial boats on the Tamsui river, the once prosperous trading city, Shuanglian, has gradually sunk into the long river of history. The numerical display of years expresses its historical transformation. The passage of time shows the meaning of "Dawning Sail."

In order to implement MRT public art, DORTS initially used Shuanglian Station as a trial station in July 1993 because the location of the public artwork was part of the interior finishing and so as to influence the construction schedule. In order to reflect the spirit of public art and attract the attention of the public, DORTS used open competition to procure the artwork, which meant anyone interested could participate. In addition, in order to simplify the procurement process and the administrative work, DORTS designated porcelain enamel, the material of the artwork, as the original wall material. DORTS eliminated the necessity for material selection and simplified the work as a 2-D graphic design.

The first-prize winner was selected by the Public Art Evaluation Committee of DORTS in October 1993. The award went to Ms. Wanting Ching and Mr. Pi-Fang Yang, who were college students at the time. Their work was selected from among 53 submissions. This work named "Dawning Sail" is expressed in a chronological chart of events, reflecting the rich historical changes of the Shuanglian area. Besides

making viewers remember Shuanglian's past, and observe its changes, this work also enables viewers to foresee the area's future. This threading together of the past, present, and future symbolizes the new developments brought by the MRT and opens up a new era of public art in Taiwan.



■ Pedestrian Mall

Children's Mosaic Trail



At the invitation of DORTS, Shuanglian Elementary School encouraged all the fifth- grade and part of the sixth-grade, 300 students in total, to participate in the activity. The students completed their designs, which were 40 cm by 40 cm each, during art classes, and selected materials provided by DORTS or brought appropriate materials themselves. At the activity site, students inserted the materials piece by piece into wet cement, and formed blocks of art tiles, which were used to pave the little trail in sequence. An expressing of the joy of childhood was completed. The trail is located in the pedestrian mall on the Tamsui line between Minsheng West Road and Jinxi Street, where the public is welcome to view this unique artwork.



■ Pedestrian Mall



The Colorful World of Children

The children's Mosaic Trail activity received such high praise from all quarters that DORTS followed it up with a similar activity in another part of the pedestrian mall, where children's mosaic graces the wall of a slide. The wall is located between Nanjing West Road and Changan West Road; one side of the mosaic is on the wall of the children's slide, while the other side forms the backdrop to a small stage.

All the students of Rixin Elementary School participated in a design competition; 20 fifth- and sixth-graders were selected to produce a draft design, and another 68 students also joined in the collage activity. The students used glass mosaic tiles provided by DORTS to make two large pictures, which are entitled "Children's Folk Art Performances" and "Natural Ecosystem and Landscape on the Tamsui River Bank." The pictures were later cut into pieces, which were numerically labeled, and transported to the construction site, where they were reassembled. As a result, two lively and interesting works have come to life.



■ NTU Hospital Station



The Suite of Hands

Artist: Kuang-Yu Lee

Completion Date: November 1998

Location: Platform

Selection Method: Invitational competition

Cost: NT\$4,999,000

Hands create our civilization. Through various gestures, the hands delicately express human affection. They also record the history and humanity of this station. It also bestows the metro with vitality.

This work includes the following parts:





Lotus-Holding Hand

Medium: Bronze, granite

Dimensions (cm): H396 x L150 x W194

Lotus represents a clean, uncontaminated world.

The bud is the first stage of a flower's life and nourishes the origin of everything. The strong energy of the flowering lotus is fully expressed via the gesture of the hand. The fingers dance with a flowering melody of life, and "purity" is the supreme guideline. Therefore, the "Lotus-Holding Hand" is symbolic of humans' ultimate pursuit of goodness.



Lotus in Heartful Hands

Medium: Bronze, granite

Dimensions (cm): H335 x L160 x W160

The tightly intertwined hands imply the strong connection between coupled MRT cars. In a broader scope, this sculpture symbolizes the interaction and symbiotic relationship between human beings and the universe. i.e., it shows the spirit of "Unity."



Small Park

Medium: Bronze

Dimensions (cm): H108 x L260 x W125

Wandering in a quiet, green park, do you feel tired? How about taking a rest in a chair? The shape of this sculpture is derived from the hand gesture that meditators often use, called "the Gesture of Buddhist Law," which stabilizes fluctuating emotions. Sitting on it might induce introspection among passengers. This piece of work is a miniature representation of a green park.