

Muni Art 2018

The third annual Muni Art Project will launch January - April 2018, and is made possible by San Francisco Beautiful and The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. The theme for this year's program is "The Art of Poetry in San Francisco", and will feature local poetry selected by the Poetry Society of America. The five winning artists will each interpret the following five poems:

Juan Felipe Herrera – "Thich Nhat Hanh I Step With You"

Diane di Prima – "To a Student"

Kay Ryan – "Relief"

Brynn Saito – "Traffic"

Charif Shanahan – "Love Poem Three Autumns Later"

The five winning artists will also create three full width panels based on this year's theme.

Of the over 40 applications received, ten artists were chosen to compete for the final five slots by a jury comprised of individuals of the arts community including a member of the San Francisco Arts Commission, local art gallery owner, a working artist, community arts programmer and a curator at a public art cultural center. Decisions were based upon quality of concept, expression of theme, diversity and the likelihood of the artist to be able to deliver the completed work by the November 6th deadline.

The 2018 Muni artists are:

Donavon Brutus

Mara Hernandez

Tsungwei Moo

Randi Pace

Janet Rumsey

In addition to each artist having 20 Muni buses to use as a canvas, each artist will be awarded \$1,250.

Donavon Brutus

To a Student

POEMS ARE ANGELS
come to bring you
the letter you wdn't
sign for

earlier, when it was
delivered
by yr life

Diana di Prima, "To a Student" from *The Poetry Deal*.
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Love Poem Three Autumns Later

In East Oakland, in my temporary flat,
I wash your empty plant pot
at the kitchen sink.
In the dirt, loosened from the crevices,
tiny flecks of sand—the same
slant of auburn as the pot—
I gather and carry them to the lake.
The water mirrors the sky, the sky
drifts to the left where memory lives.
Forty years a swamp, I say, opening my palm.

Charif Shanahan, "Love Poem Three Autumns Later."
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Janet Rumsey

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Charif Sharahan, "Love Poem Three Autumns Later."
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Mara Hernandez

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Relief

We know it is close
to something lofty.
Simply getting over being sick
or finding lost property
has in it the leap,
the purge, the quick humility
of witnessing a birth—
how love seeps up
and retakes the earth.
There is a dreamy
wading feeling to your walk
inside the current
of restored riches,
clocks set back,
disasters averted.

Kay Ryan, "Relief" from *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems*.
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Tsungwei Moo

To a Student

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Thich Nhat Hanh I Step With You

step breathe
step breathe

—peace flickers at the end of the flame
you sit you speak one word yet the word is impossible

rice brown and eggplant soup green violet
your mind still for peace
decade upon decade bowing speaking lifting the dead
from your shoulders our hands
this is how you walk — one step we walk with you
one step there
a breath as you go as we go

Juan Felipe Herrera, "Thich Nhat Hanh I Step With You"
from *Notes on the Assemblage*.
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Randi Pace

Traffic

Woman warrior when stuck in traffic
sings love songs, screams, screeches her wheels
across the lost metropolis
puts locks on certain memories
to survive. She has nothing
to say to you
she has everything
to say to you
she sees you in the next car—
forehead pressed to the steering wheel
stereo blaring
sweeping your mind with your eyeballs.
You're a full-blown adult now—
blind as a hubcap to the unseen world.

Brynn Saito, "Traffic" from *Power Made Us Swoon*.
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