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Single Fare 4
A show of small works made with
New York City MetroCards

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New York Today: An Art Show Made of MetroCards

By ALEXANDRA S. LEVINE SEPT. 15, 2017

Good morning on this fair Friday. As you head to work this morning, take a moment to examine your MetroCard. Look closely.

Does it look like a piece of art or one in the making? Artists are reimagining the MetroCard as an art medium for an exhibition this weekend in the meatpacking district, transforming thousands of the pocket-size passes into paintings, sculptures and other installations.

“The only real constraint was to make a piece of art on or utilizing a MetroCard,” said Jean-Pierre Roy, one of the creators of the exhibition, called “Single Fare,” which is now in its fourth run.

With no other ground rules, some artists are using the MetroCard as a blank canvas, covering it completely with tiny paintings of cows, cockroaches, earlobes, famous faces or fearless New Yorkers. Others, staying loyal to the card’s original look and feel, are including existing parts of the card in the illustrations — in one scene of the Brooklyn Bridge, for example, the card’s black stripe is used as the bridge’s base.

(In the past, others have made small houses or pieces of furniture — chandeliers, benches, the occasional lampshade — from the flimsy objects, or MetroCard cutouts that, with light shining through, can cast shadows of Marilyn Monroe or Yoda.)

Creating a masterpiece from a MetroCard can be a daunting task.

“You hear a lot of people talking, exasperated, about how hard it is to paint at that scale,” Mr. Roy said. “It forces a lot of artists in the community out of their comfort zone.”

Michael Kagan, the other “Single Fare” creator, added: “It’s a tricky surface to paint on. It’s small and it’s slick, so even the best painters still have to re-hone their skills.”

When the duo, graduates of the New York Academy of Art, put out a call for submissions of MetroCard art this summer, they received more than 3,000 projects, nearly all of which will be on display. Attendees will be able to view works not only by native New Yorkers, Mr. Roy said, but also by artists from China and New Zealand.

“We’re trying to build the kind of exhibition opportunity in New York that we don’t get to see enough of — an open, democratized exhibition that celebrates the diversity of our creative community, from young to old, 1-D to 3-D work, all given a single, common, unifying constraint,” Mr. Roy said.

“It’s nice to be able to hold your entire image in the palm of your hand.”

You can check out Single Fare 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, or noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, at Highline Stages on West 14th Street. The pieces will be up for sale both days.
The New York Academy of Art has a 2-day-only exhibition called “Single Fare 4” featuring works made on-or-of discarded NYC MTA metrocards. Everything will sell for $115 except for the first hour of the opening (5 to 6 p.m. on the 16th) when they're $215. All proceeds go toward student scholarships. The venue is Highline Stages (441 West 14th Street) and the hours are 5 to 10 p.m. on September 16th and noon to 6 p.m. on the 17th.
Art on a Metrocard

09/14/2017 09:07 pm ET

If you're in New York, you might consider dropping by Highline Stages this weekend for Single Fare 4 (details at bottom). It is the fourth installment of an extraordinarily clever art show concept originated by Michael Kagan and Jean-Pierre Roy in 2010: artwork made exclusively on Metrocards, the disposable plastic cards used to pay public transportation fares in New York City.

This is a generous idea generously staged. It is a generous idea in that, by tethering the artwork to one comical parameter, it unleashes a wide range of creative problem solving. In past years, artists have crammed drawing, painting, collage, video, sculpture, and photography into the ridiculously little format (3.375"x2.125"). And it is a generous staging because it is open to all. Not only are the prices low – all pieces by all artists, famous to first-timer, are $200 in the opening hour and $100 thereafter – but anybody who likes may submit work, and that work will be shown. One must merely have the drive to obtain the materials, the inspiration to make the work, and the discipline to mail it in on time. Nothing more.

Iterations of the show have expanded as word of it has spread. This year, it is pressed into service as a fundraiser for scholarships at the New York Academy of Art, an excellent art school in the city. In an overwhelming response among artists, over 7,000 Metrocards were sent in. I sent six myself. I have a list of artists whose work I am excited to see at the opening – but it will be a challenge spotting them in the sea of art. As I search, I'll inevitably be bowled over by something I didn't expect. That's half the fun.

DETAILS:

Single Fare
Opening Saturday Sept 16, 5-10pm On view Sunday Sept 17, 12 - 6pm Highline Stages - 441 West 14th Street, NY, NY
A tiny selection of included works follow:
SINGLE FARE: A METRO CARD ART EXHIBITION
Sep 16, 2017 – Sep 17, 2017

Seven years ago, NYC–based artists Michael Kagan and Jean–Pierre Roy started Single Fare, an open call exhibition for art on NYC metro cards. For their fourth iteration, the organizers teamed up with The New York Academy of Art to put up their largest exhibition to date.

What started as a fun project to celebrate the local creative community and challenge artists to use this iconic object as a canvas, has now turned into a cultural phenomenon that took the concept far beyond the original idea. This year’s event will present thousands of artworks created on, or with, an MTA ticket, including drawings, video installations, paintings, sculptures, interactive work, 3–D printed objects and more. The exhibition will be on view for two days, September 16 & 17, at Highline Stages, 441 West 14th Street in New York. All works will be sold at a flat fee of $115, except during the “preview hour” from 5 – 6 pm on Saturday, September 16, where works will sell for $215. Attendees will also have the opportunity to enter a raffle for special Metrocards by high–profile artists. A portion of sales will be benefitting student scholarships at the Academy and the Alumni Association of the New York Academy of Art.—Sasha Bogojev
Artists Create Impressive Artworks Using NYC MetroCards

As part of an ongoing project dubbed “Single Fare.”
By Keith Estiler/Sep 15, 2017/Arts

Artists Michael Kagan and Jean-Pierre Roy have recently partnered with The New York Academy of Art to produce a monumental exhibition dedicated to artworks created out of NYC MetroCards. Titled “Single Fare 4,” the showcase marks the fourth installment of Kagan and Roy’s ongoing project that asks artists to reimagine the quintessential Big Apple object to their hearts’ content. A diverse batch of works will be on display at the upcoming function located at Highline Stages, spanning illustrations, installations, sculptures, as well as immersive experiences.

“Single Fare 4” will run from September 16-17. Head over to the exhibition’s official website to learn more.

Highline Stages
441 W. 14th St.
New York, NY 10011
Artists are turning MetroCards into tiny masterpieces

By Barbara Hoffman
September 15, 2017 | 5:22pm

They won’t get you on the subway, but these MetroCards are works of art. Literally.

More than 7,000 miniature masterpieces are for sale at this weekend’s pop-up art show “Single Fare.” Each is priced at $115, $45 of which helps fund scholarships at the New York Academy of Art.

That’s where Jean-Pierre Roy and Michael Kagan dreamed up the show seven years ago: One of their students, assigned to make a “tiny painting” but too sick to go shopping for supplies, painted her self-portrait on an expired MetroCard she found in her apartment.

This year’s edition, the fourth, is the largest and most eclectic show yet, with works both by high-schoolers and such established talents as John Alexander and Margaret Bowland, whose regular pieces routinely fetch more than $100,000. Among the most ambitious: a MetroCard that’s been turned into a video installation, complete with a tiny screen and headphone jack, and 12 “Game of Thrones”-themed cards.

All told, these MetroCards will take you a lot further than, say, 241st Street in The Bronx!
An art exhibit shows off works made out of MetroCards this weekend

By Clayton Guse Posted: Friday September 15 2017, 5:11pm

The advent of the MetroCard was one of the greatest things to ever happen to New York (at least in our humble opinion). The thin plastic beauts almost single-handedly gave subway access to millions of New Yorkers, offering a level of transit freedom that was previously unimaginable in the city before their debut in 1993.

This weekend, the cards will be front-and-center at a Chelsea art show titled “Single Fare 4.” Presented by the New York Academy of Art and hosted at Highline Stages, the exhibit shows off thousands of pieces of artwork created on or with MetroCards. Now in its eighth year, the show has become a staple for New York art and transit nerds alike. From sculptures to tiny landscape paintings, each piece on display feels like an inside joke that the entire city of New York can take part in.

Those who head out to gawk at the cute little art nuggets will also have the opportunity to purchase them. (Disclaimer: They’re not cheap.) Each work will be sold for a flat fee of $115, which is actually cheaper than a 30-day pass. You can also head out to the exhibit’s opening hour from 5–6pm on Saturday to snag some early picks, but you’ll pay $215 for each piece during that stretch.

The exhibit runs from 5–8pm on Saturday and from noon–6pm on Sunday.
Art Show Made of MetroCards is Open for this Weekend Only in the Meatpacking District

Susan Xu 09/15/2017

The New York City subway has long served as a makeshift gallery for budding and well-established visionaries, but a group of artists is taking it one step further by utilizing another transit-affiliated canvas for their works: MetroCards. As part of a two-day exhibition, “Single Fare,” now in its fourth run and taking place in the Meatpacking District, artists are reimagining the MTA’s iconic transit passes into installations, paintings and more.

Jean-Pierre Roy, one of the creators of the exhibition, tells The New York Times that the “only real constraint” was to create a work of art either on a MetroCard, or using one. Artists have taken this creative liberty to put together a variety of unique works — covering the MetroCard entirely or in part with tiny paintings, or constructing complex sculptures. In the past, cranes, trains and chandeliers have been crafted; portraits and landscapes have been drawn and detailed cut-outs, which cast shadows, have been painstakingly crafted. (Our favorite is this one of Yoda.)

The Single Fare Facebook page explains where the idea for the show came from: “Inspired by the notion that the city’s subways and buses allow for a kind of creative interchange unmatched in human history, the first ‘Single Fare’ sought to create a unique art event where art and artists could come together to form a monumental event made from a tiny, innocuous piece of plastic: The MetroCard!”

This year, over 3,000 projects were submitted for consideration when Jean-Pierre Roy and Michael Kagan, the other “Single Fare” creator, put out an open call for artwork. To see the pieces in person, pay a visit to Highline Stages on West 14th St. this weekend from 5 to 8PM on Saturday and noon to 6PM on Sunday.
New York: una mostra fatta con le schede del metro


New York: an exhibition made with the meter cards

«Single Fare 4» is the exhibition dedicated to works created with metrocard, magnetic cards (daily, weekly and monthly) that allow access to the subway in New York. For years, a group of artists collect the cards used to transform them into art: crumbled into small pieces and recomposed into new shapes like a collage, used as palettes for landscapes or portraits. The exhibition, now in its seventh year, was born from an idea of the artists Michael Kagan and Jean-Pierre Roy and is promoted by the New York Academy of Art. The show will last only this weekend. The works are for sale. Photo: courtesy of the New York Academy of Art
The Weekend Only: MetroCards Become Art

by Libby Torres in Arts & Entertainment  on Sep 16, 2017 12:00 pm

Regardless of how you feel about the MTA, MetroCards are, for most people, an inescapable part of New York City life. And while many of us relegate our MetroCards to the bottom of a bag or wallet, an exhibition opening this weekend in the Meatpacking District will make you see your MetroCard more for form than function.

“Single Fare,” on view at the Highline Stages on Saturday and Sunday, will showcase works of art featuring the humble yellow subway pass. The exhibition, which is now in its fourth run, was created by Jean-Pierre Roy and Michael Kagan, both graduates of the New York Academy of Art.

“The only real constraint was to make a piece of art on or utilizing a MetroCard,” Roy told the New York Times. Roy and Kagan received more than 3,000 pieces of art when they put out a call for submissions this summer, and almost all of them will be on display.

The exhibition will feature art from plenty of native New Yorkers, as well as projects by artists from China and New Zealand. And while the MetroCard medium probably won’t be seen on the walls of the MoMa anytime soon, the exhibition’s Instagram page demonstrates the wide variety of approaches artists took. Some used the MetroCard as a blank canvas, transforming it into renditions of Botticelli paintings or Warhol prints, while others referenced pop culture or created original works. Other artists worked in tandem with the card, incorporating its design features into their own work.

The Single Fare Facebook page explains: “Inspired by the notion that the city’s subways and buses allow for a kind of creative interchange unmatched in human history, the first ‘Single Fare’ sought to create a unique art event where art and artists could come together to form a monumental event made from a tiny, innocuous piece of plastic: The MetroCard!”

“Single Fare” runs from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday at Highline Stages, 440 West 15th Street.
Art on a MetroCard

For New Yorkers, MetroCard is something they can't live without. With wild imagination and meticulous design, though, these pocket-size passes can be transformed into something much bigger—ART.
Angharad Coates
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