

Subway Therapy and *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* Selected for The Municipal Art Society's Brendan Gill Prize

(April 10, 2017 | New York, NY) – The Municipal Art Society (MAS) has named *Subway Therapy* and *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas* as the winners of the 2017 Brendan Gill Prize. Artists from both projects will be honored by MAS during the organization's *Celebrating the City* awards ceremony on Monday, May 15, at El Museo del Barrio.

“We are delighted to honor these two works of art, which illuminate what Brendan Gill loved about urban life,” said MAS President Elizabeth Goldstein. “Together these projects reflect the constellation of perspectives and experiences that give New York its sense of variety and wonder—what Gill called ‘the energy coming up out of the sidewalks.’”

About Subway Therapy

On November 9, the day after the 2016 election, Matthew “Levee” Chavez invited commuters to express their personal feelings on sticky notes on the walls of the 14th Street Sixth Avenue and Union Square subway stations. Over the next five weeks, messages of hope, confusion, anxiety, fear, and solidarity greeted the station's nearly 100,000 daily riders, and photographs of the installation spread across the city. The simplicity of this crowdsourced eruption of expression was provocative and moving, and spoke perfectly to a particular moment in time. Part of the collection will be preserved and displayed at the New-York Historical Society for future generations to witness.

About *Nonstop Metropolis: A New York City Atlas*

Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro's *Nonstop Metropolis* presents thought-provoking essays and instantly iconic local maps that bring into focus the social history, cultural identity, and neighborhood landmarks that form the tapestry of New York's five boroughs. By giving voice to a diverse host of collaborators across the five boroughs, the book reflects the resilience of our communities and creates a beautifully varied portrait of our urban archipelago.

About the Gill Prize

The Brendan Gill prize was established in 1987 by fellow MAS board members Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Helen Tucker, and Margot Wellington to honor the creator of a building, book, essay, musical composition, play, film, painting, sculpture, choreographic work or landscape design, accomplished in the previous year that best captures, “the energy, vigor and verve of our incomparable city.” Past recipients include Lin-Manuel Miranda, Kara Walker, Michael Kimmelman, Hugh Hardy, and Sarah Jones. For a full listing or previous recipients please visit <http://mas.org/awards/brendan-gill/>.

This annual cash award is administered by MAS and named for longtime New Yorker theater and architecture critic, champion preservationist, and civic booster Brendan Gill. The recipient is chosen by the Brendan Gill Jury from nominations submitted to MAS by the general public. The esteemed 2017 Jury included Chair John Haworth, Laurie Beckelman, Randall Bourscheidt, Patricia Cruz, Gail Gregg, Suketu Mehta, Cassim Shepard, and Helen Tucker.

About Celebrating the City Awards

The 2017 Brendan Gill Prize will be presented at The Municipal Art Society's evening of awards and conversation honoring arts, architecture, and activism.

Monday, May 15, 2017
El Museo del Barrio, 1230 5th Avenue at 104th Street

Doors open at 6:00 PM // Program begins at 6:30 PM
Reception in the courtyard to follow

Presenting:

The Brendan Gill Prize, presented by John Haworth, Brendan Gill Prize Jury Chair
Rebecca Solnit and Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, Nonstop Metropolis
Matthew "Levee" Chavez, Subway Therapy

The Wangari Maathai Award for Civic Participation in Sustainability

The MASTerworks Awards for Design Excellence

Featuring:

In Conversation: Brendan Gill Prize Honorees
Moderated by Patricia Cruz, Executive Director of Harlem Stage and 2017 Gill Prize Juror

About MAS

Over more than 120 years of history, MAS has worked to educate and inspire New Yorkers to engage in the betterment of our city. Through three core campaign areas, MAS protects New York's legacy spaces, encourages thoughtful planning and urban design, and fosters complete neighborhoods across the five boroughs. For more information, visit mas.org.

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