

Press Release:

NETWORK

A New Artwork by Ellen Harvey For Boston's South Station

Commissioned by WTS-Boston Chapter



Opening Reception
Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 12 – 1 pm
South Station

The Boston chapter of WTS International is delighted to announce the completion of *NETWORK*, a new 650 sq. ft. mosaic artwork by Ellen Harvey for the Headhouse 2 entrance to Boston's South. The idea of donating an artwork to the city of Boston was originally conceived by WTS-Boston Chapter in 2005 as a way of celebrating its 25th anniversary and raising awareness of women's contributions to the transportation industry. Over thirteen years later, thanks to the generosity of numerous public and private donors, that dream has become a reality.

NETWORK celebrates the social network that is provided by WTS at the same time that it makes visible the very real transportation network that WTS' members serve. An intricate hand-made glass mosaic map allows

travelers to locate themselves within the larger transportation network of which South Station is a major hub. The lines on the map's white background are color-coded: blue/green: water, light grey (road), medium grey (railroads), dark grey (subways). A gold dot marks the location of South Station. The dominance of the ocean is a reminder of a not-so distant past where Boston Harbor and its rivers were the primary means of transportation. We take this transformation from natural to artificial networks for granted but it is the result of human action and human decision-making. We all travel within a hidden history of engineers, architects, surveyors, builders and politicians – many of who were women, as WTS reminds us and as we too often forget. NETWORK attempts to both to show that history and to give credit to the many women who made it happen.

Careful viewers will also notice three almost invisible mermaids in the ocean portion of the map. These mermaids are not engaged in their traditional occupation of combing their hair or luring sailors to their doom, instead they are working together to survey the land in front of them. As the forces of nature personified, the mermaids provide a whimsical reminder of the dangers both of gender stereotyping and of ignoring the sea in a time of climate change. NETWORK imagines a world in which the mermaids escape their conventional destinies and instead decide to take on the land, just as perhaps now we need nature to lead our transportation decisions, rather than to be subject to them.

NETWORK has been made possible by the generous donations of the Edward Ingersoll Browne Trust, Massachusetts Port Authority, WTS-Boston Chapter, VHB, Stantec, HNTB Corporation, Nitsch Engineering, WSP USA Inc., SPS New England and many other generous donors.

NETWORK was fabricated and installed by Miotto Mosaic Art Studio in collaboration with Trivisanutto Giovanni SRL. General contracting was provided by SPS New England Inc. Special thanks are also due to Paul Ha, Hyun-A Park, Lisa Brothers & Jean Mineo for donating their time and expertise and to the MBTA for their professional collaboration and support.

The Boston Chapter of WTS is the successor organization of the Greater Boston Women's Transportation Group which was formed in 1980 by a group of twenty women working in the transportation industry. Since 1981 it has been a part of WTS International (originally Women's Transportation Seminar) which was founded in 1977 by a group of pioneering women in transportation. Now, after more than 40 years of growth and development, WTS is an international organization with more than 6,500 members (including women and men) and 79 chapters, connected to a network of 40,000 transportation professionals. Local chapters generate high-caliber professional development and networking opportunities for WTS members across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Through its professional activities, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry and government leaders, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal.

Ellen Harvey is a British-born artist living and working in Brooklyn. She is a 2016 recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in the Visual Arts and a graduate of the Whitney Independent Study Program and Harvard College. She has exhibited extensively in the U.S. and internationally and was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. She has completed permanent public works for New York Percent for Art, New York Arts in Transit, the Chicago Transit Authority, the Philadelphia International Airport, the Federal Art in Architecture program, Miami Beach Art in Public Places and the Flemish National Architect, winning the Belgian Wivina Demeester Prize for Commissioned Public Art in 2016. She is represented by Danese/Corey Gallery in New York, Locks Gallery in Philadelphia, Meessen de Clerq Gallery in Belgium and Galerie Gebruder Lehman in Germany. For additional information about Ellen Harvey please visit www.ellenharvey.info or follow her on Instagram at Ellen Harvey Studio.

For additional information or images please contact:

Lisa Brothers, WTS-Boston Public Art Project Coordinator
LBrothers@nitscheng.com

or

Ellen Harvey Studio
studio@ellenharvey.info