



**SFMTA**  
Municipal  
Transportation  
Agency

City and County of San Francisco

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**SFMTA, San Francisco Beautiful, Supervisor Fewer Kick-off Muni Art 2018**  
*Local artists and poets transform 100 Muni buses with four months of fine art*

**San Francisco**—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) will kick-off the third year of Muni Art at a press conference hosted by Supervisor Sandra Fewer on the **Polk Street steps of City Hall, Thursday, January 11 at 12 pm**. For the first time the project collaborated with the Poetry Society of America's Poetry in Motion® for the theme "The Art of Poetry in San Francisco". The five winning local artists and poets will have their original work displayed on 100 Muni buses beginning January and running through April, 2018.

**The 2018 Muni artists are:**

Donavon Brutus  
Mara Hernandez  
Tsongwei Moo  
Randi Pace  
Janet Rumsey

**The five local poets and poems are:**

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"

In addition to artistically interpreting the five poems, each artist has three additional panels to reflect the 2018 theme that will line both sides of the bus interior display space.

"The SFMTA is committed to improving the customer experience and this program makes for a pleasant riding experience," said Ed Reiskin, SFMTA Director of Transportation. "From new vehicles rapid routes and increased service, to art and poetry, we're doing everything we can to make the ride more enjoyable."

"Muni Art breaks down the barriers to galleries and museums and brings original local art and poetry to San Franciscans in every part of the city," said Darcy Brown, Executive Director of San Francisco Beautiful. "The project highlights our local artists and poets, and gets their work in front of over 700,000 daily Muni riders every day for four months. What artist doesn't dream of an opportunity like that?"

Supervisor Fewer, who is co-hosting the event said, “I am thrilled to co-host the kick-off of Muni Art 2018, and be a part of bringing vibrant visual arts and poetry to San Francisco’s public transit riders.”

“The Poetry Society of America is delighted to be collaborating with the innovative and energetic San Francisco Beautiful team and with SFMTA’s visionary leadership,” said Alice Quinn, Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America. “We are excited to be a part of such a unique poetry and art display in this city that has such a long, distinguished, and charming literary history.”

This year, the Muni Art program is funded by members of San Francisco Beautiful, AT&T, the Wilsey Foundation, the Zellerbach Family Foundation and the Union Square BID.

For more details on the final five winners of the Muni Art Project, visit [sfbeautiful.org/muniart](http://sfbeautiful.org/muniart).

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### **SFMTA**

Contact: Paul Rose  
415.601.1637, cell  
[paul.rose@sfmta.com](mailto:paul.rose@sfmta.com)

### **About the SFMTA**

Established by voter proposition in 1999, the SFMTA, a department of the City and County of San Francisco, oversees the Municipal Railway (Muni), parking and traffic, bicycling, walking and taxis. With five modes of transit, Muni has approximately 700,000 passenger boardings each day. Over 1 million people get around this city each day and rely on the SFMTA to ensure safe and reliable travel by transit, walking, bicycling, taxi and driving.

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### **San Francisco Beautiful**

Contact: Darcy Brown  
415-307-7707

### **About San Francisco Beautiful**

Founded in 1947 to save the iconic cable cars, San Francisco Beautiful is the only organization that continues to protect the unique neighborhood character, civic beauty and liveability of San Francisco. [www.sfbeautiful.org](http://www.sfbeautiful.org)

### **About Poetry Society of America**

The Poetry Society of America, the nation's oldest poetry organization, aims to build a larger and more diverse audience for poetry, and to place poetry at the crossroads of American life. Poetry in Motion®, the Poetry Society of America's signature program, places poetry in the transit systems of cities throughout the country, helping to create a national readership for both emerging and established poets. Over the past 20 years the program has appeared in over twenty cities and has generated several publications, including the recent anthology, *The Best of Poetry in Motion: Celebrating Twenty-Five Years on Subways and Buses*, published by W. W. Norton (2017).

## About Muni Art 2018 Poets

Juan Felipe Herrera

Former U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera's numerous poetry collections include *187 Reasons Mexicanos Can't Cross the Border: Undocuments 1971-2007*, and *Half of the World in Light: New and Selected Poems* (2008).

Kay Ryan

Acknowledged as one of the most original voices in the contemporary landscape, Kay Ryan has published several collections of poetry, including *Erratic Facts* (Grove Press, 2015) and *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems* (Grove Press, 2010), for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 2011.

Diane di Prima

Former Poet Laureate of San Francisco Diane Di Prima has authored more than thirty collections of poetry, including *The Poetry Deal* (City Lights Publishers, 2014) as well as plays, short stories, novels, nonfiction, and more, and her work has been translated into more than twenty languages.

Charif Shanahan

Charif Shanahan is the author of *Into Each Room We Enter without Knowing* (SIU Press, 2017), winner of the 2015 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award. He is currently a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University.

Brynn Saito

Brynn Saito is the author of two books of poetry, [Power Made Us Swoon](#) (2016) and [The Palace of Contemplating Departure](#) (2013), winner of the [Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award](#) from [Red Hen Press](#) and finalist for the [Northern California Book Award](#).



