

GLADSTONE

Andrew Page, "HOT OFF THE PRESSES: The Summer 2021 edition of Glass (#163)," *Urban Glass*, May 29, 2021

UrbanGlass

HOT OFF THE PRESSES: The Summer 2021 edition of Glass (#163)



The Summer 2021 edition of *Glass: The UrbanGlass Art Quarterly* (#163) is hitting newsstands and subscriber mailboxes. On the cover is a public art installation (<https://hyperallergic.com/611344/new-public-art-by-jim-hodges-offers-hurried-commuters-a-moment-of-reflection-at-grand-central/>) by New York-based contemporary artist Jim Hodges (<http://jimhodges.com/>) -- his homage to the city that shaped him so profoundly, and the perfect image to acknowledge our emergence from the Covid-19 pandemic. When the MTA invited Hodges to create an artwork for the stairwell leading down from the Grand Central's terminal to the utilitarian 4/5/6 subway platform, he set out to mediate the architectural whiplash from the soul-stirring Beaux Arts grandeur of the famous constellation ceiling to the gritty cacophonous underground below -- and Hodges turned to glass mirror to do it.



Stepping onto the down escalator, one embarks on a journey through a zone of inky indigo darkness to emerge into a dazzling and immersive landscape “painting” in glass, which references the natural world through color fields and camouflage patterning, faceted with stolen reflections of oneself as part of a momentary assemblage of fellow New York travelers. The opposite of a descent, the ride becomes a celebration of shared experience with multiple access points. In an extensive interview from Hodge’s massive Ridgewood, Queens, studio in New York City (which he shares with emerging performance artists in an adjacent theater space he built to share with the community), the artist discusses how honored he was to have the opportunity to bring artists to the citizens of the city where he first found his artistic voice -- inspired by performance artist Shelley Hirsch (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelley_Hirsch) and others -- through emotionally-charged installations that frequently use everyday objects with evocative associations.