

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Student Artist's Project Gives MATA Riders a Rest

MATA riders in Midtown and along Union Avenue will soon see a reprieve in their morning waits for the bus to work. Memphis College of Art student artist, Catherine Blackwell, will be installing fifteen hand-made seats to bus stop areas that currently do not offer seating for MATA users. The project, entitled *Duv-tal*, will bring together environmentalists and individuals who ride public transportation out of necessity, by offering temporary bus stop seating. The chairs will offer a place of rest for passengers, in addition to enabling a sense of authority in comparison to individuals driving in passenger vehicles.

Installed May 3rd through May 31st, the project will incorporate seating to bus stops in the Cooper Young area and on Union toward Downtown. This student project is in conjunction with the UrbanArt Commission's 10th Anniversary temporary exhibitions project *Interactions/Interruptions* and Blackwell was one of four student artists to be chosen for the project.

Interactions/Interruptions was made possible through the generous support of the following organizations and individuals: First Tennessee Bravo Award, Hyde Family Foundations, National Endowment for the Arts, Deupree Family Foundation, Waddell & Associates, Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Goodman, Scott and Carolyn Heppel, and Mrs. Sandy Goldstein; with additional support from Memphis College of Art, ArtsMemphis, the Tennessee Arts Commission and Clear Channel; and special thanks to the Memphis Area Transit Authority, City of Memphis Division of Park Services, Memphis Public Library and Information Center, the Riverfront Development Corporation, Memphis Light Gas & Water, the Center for Southern Folklore, Archer Malmo and the South Main Association.

The mission of the UrbanArt Commission is to create a dynamic, vibrant, nurturing community through art and design. The UAC is funded in part by the City of Memphis, Greater Memphis Arts Council, Tennessee Arts Commission and the Hyde Foundation.

Please contact the UrbanArt Commission for more information about this project 901.525.0880, or visit www.urbanartcommission.org for a full listing of the 10th Anniversary Projects.