

MANHATTAN REPORT

Artworks go over big

Manhattan received two more pieces of public art, ceramic-tile murals in a midtown subway station and a large sculpture in a housing project in Chinatown.

In the subway at 53d St. and Lexington Ave., Nina Yankowitz's work "Tunnel Vision," a 65-foot-long ceramic work, is in the corridor that connects the IND with the



CHILDREN HAVE a ball on "Orbital Connector."

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IRT. Made from handmade tiles by Yankowitz, the colorful work evokes images of water.

Downtown in the Gov. Smith Houses, a New York City Housing Authority project, "Orbital Connector," by Hera was unveiled. It is a complex work that celebrates all of the national and ethnic groups in the housing complex. The sculpture consists of a series of rings that have the names of cities in China, the Caribbean, Europe and the United States identifying the origin of the people in the area. In addition, a 41-foot steel arrow passes through the rings and points directly to China.

"This is important because it's about uniting people" said Allan Chow, director of the Asian American Arts Council, which wrote a proposal and received \$5,000 from the Department of Cultural Affairs for the work.

Although Hera got the okay from the New York Housing Authority in 1984 for "Orbital Connector," it took until this week to complete the job.

"Half of the time was spent fund-raising," Hera explained. "I raised \$17,000 directly from the community for the work." Contributors included merchants, area residents and professionals. "One person directed me to another," Hera said. "For example, Robert Roderick of the Bank of East Asia got together a group of lawyers who contributed."

The subway art work was done under the Arts for Transit Program run by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Other MTA art projects in Manhattan subways include Broadway-Lafayette St., 14th St. and Eighth Ave., 125th St. and Lexington Ave.

Because various municipal government agencies are financing public art, more and more work is being installed. Although the most unpopular piece of public sculpture, "Tilted Arc," by Richard Serra was removed recently from 26 Federal Plaza, most public art is well-received. "I had community involvement in my work," explained Hera. "I presented two ideas to the tenants association at the Smith Houses and then it was presented to and approved by Community Board 3."

—Joan Shepard