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Spectacular mural unveiled at Jewellery Quarter station

A spectacular mural celebrating the history and heritage of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter has been installed at the area's railway station.

The six-metre wide artwork shines the spotlight on the area and features iconic buildings such as the recnetly-restored Argent Centre and Chamberlain Clock. The project was led by the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (BID), which has 'adopted' the station in partnership with West Midlands Railway.

The artwork was commissioned by the Jewellery Quarter Townscape Heritage Project (JQTHP) and designed by local artists Barbara Gibson and Marta Kochanek. Eight studnets from the world-renowned School of Jewellery also contributed to the piece.

Kate O'Connor, from the JQTHP, said:

"It is great to see some of the fantastic buildings in the area represented alongside contemporary work from the students at the School of Jewellery greeting people as they arrive at the Jewellery Quarter station.

"The design by Barbara and Marta is unique and we hope it inspires people to go and explore the local area and to appreciate the unique and historic architecture."

The art mural becomes the first permanent art feature in the train station and will soon be followed by further projects that celebrate the area's unique heritage and community.

Steve Lovell, from the Jewellery Quarter BID, said:

"We're so thrilled to see the mural inside the station. Covid-19 has sadly brought to a halt many of the plans we had since adopting the station in 2019, so we are extremely excited to install our first permanent fitting.

"Having the mural installed at platform level will only increase the intrigue from passengers and will hopefully persuade more people to come and visit and explore the area."

The artwork can be seen on platform 2 inside the Jewellery Quarter station.

Fay Easton, head of stakeholder and community for West Midlands Railway, said:

"It is projects such as these which really give our stations life and give local people and businesses a real connection to their transport network. I am thrilled to see the hard work of everybody involved in creating this mural paying off and I look forward to even more improvements at Jewellery Quarter in coming months."

For more information on adopting your local station, click <u>here</u>.

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Press Contact press.office@wmtrains.co.uk 0330 095 5626