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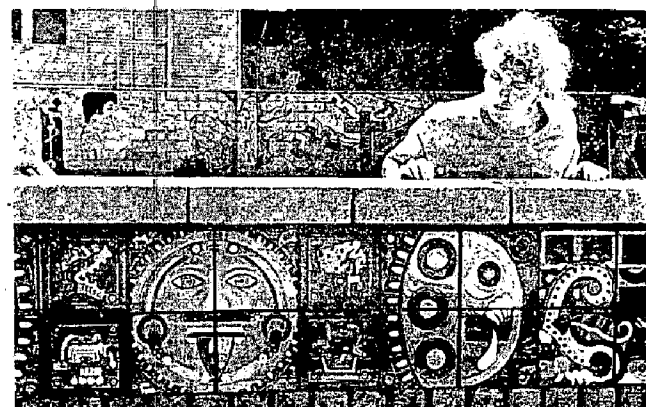
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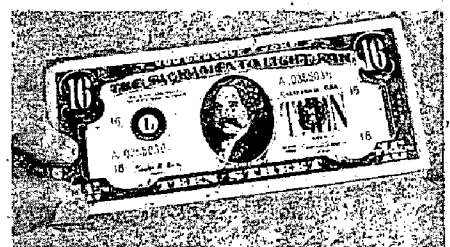
Barrel-vaulted station has a two-dimensional rock garden set into the platform. Made of slate, small flat rocks, and colored concrete, this abstract work was designed by artist Etsuko Sakimura

PETER O. WHITELEY

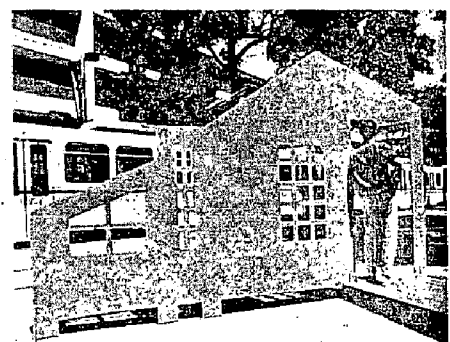
Public art with public transportation in Sacramento



Servir al Pueblo, a mural of hand-painted tiles, celebrates Mexican cultural influences in the Alkali Flat neighborhood



Embedded in concrete, 27 porcelain \$16 bills (above) dot the stop at 16th Street. Playhouse-size painted metal silhouette of a building graces the O Street Mall



Waiting on the platform for a train in Sacramento's light-rail system gives passengers time for a little art appreciation. At 21 of the stations, installations reveal the work of 26 artists—all but 1 from California.

In addition to considerations of form, color, and inventiveness, the projects share the need for economy and durability. Artists fashioned them mainly from tile, stone, metal, or integral-colored concrete; most pieces are set into the platforms, walkways, or walls near the stations.

The art ranges in size from diminutive \$16 bills to freestanding metal silhouettes of miniature buildings. Only vibrant, nylon banners that brighten several stations have a chance of being damaged by the elements.

The completed light rail is scheduled to open September 6 (half the system has been operating since last March). Each

station will offer free brochures for a self-guided tour that details the history of each work and artist.

Funds for the art installations totaled more than \$250,000—most contributed by the Sacramento Regional Transit District, but also helped by the National Endowment for the Arts, the State of California, and private individuals. The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission coordinated the projects.

The light-rail line has two 9-mile legs that radiate eastward from central Sacramento. One roughly follows Interstate Highway 80; the other follows U.S. Highway 50. The line runs from 6 A.M. until 10:30 P.M. weekdays, and from 8 to 7 on weekends and holidays. For a map of stops and locations, write to Regional Transit, Box 2110, Sacramento 95810. Ninety-minute fare is \$1 per person for ages 5 and over, 55 cents for seniors and handicapped. □