

El Cerrito del Norte Station Modernization Public Art



El Cerrito Homes, 2021
Kyungmi Shin—ShinGray Studio



The Hill Side mural located on the east wall shows the artist's predominantly green and blue landscape drawing of the El Cerrito hills connecting to Berkeley Hills as the base of the composition. Overlaid on top of the landscape is a complex line drawing traced from a satellite street map of the area. The lines represent city streets, parks and Interstate 80. The cut out shapes of the houses are tracings of actual houses from El Cerrito's past and present. Historical buildings are on the top left and are represented as black and white shapes. Other shapes in the front are houses from the streets surrounding Del Norte BART station such as Cutting Blvd, Lexington Street, Elm Street, Kearney Street etc. Examples of homes from El Cerrito's history represented in the artwork are the Castro adobe and Chung Mei home.



Hill Side, Kyungmi Shin

The Bay Side mural is created with the base of a pastel drawing of the San Francisco Bay based on a collage of the artist's photographs from the El Cerrito Hills overlaid with line drawings tracing of the landscape and architecture. The larger three graphic elements show the idea of home of the past and present through a bold line drawing of a contemporary home (created from a current El Cerrito home), a bird's nest perched on a branch of an oak tree (a native tree), and a line drawing of a typical Ohlone house. With these elements, she is introducing the idea of home in the past, present and future time continuum. The bird's nest represents the distant past of abundant nature in the area, the current state of controlled and minimized nature, and the future of more green and preserved nature.



Bay Side, Kyungmi Shin

The overall composition and color of both murals were inspired by the existing mosaic artwork by Alfonso Pardiñas, which he created to represent the sky and water. Shin wanted to create an artwork that expanded on that concept to create a cohesive and meaningful artwork for the del Norte station that will become an iconic presence for El Cerrito.

Each panel is 28' wide by 8' tall handmade ceramic mosaic.

More about the artist may be found at www.shingraystudio.com.

The artist was selected by a panel of community members and arts professionals from over 70 artists who applied. The artwork is part of the station modernization work.