

Timeline Photos

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**Peter Patau**

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THE MURAL THAT TIME FORGOT?

Artist Richard Haas who painted this mural in 1985 is doing a talk and Q&A tonight at Monona Terrace at a benefit for the UW Foundation. Later this year the Chazen will have a retrospective of his work. <http://www.supportuw.org/calendar/richard-haas-madison/>

In 1985, this was one of Madison's most expensive and controversial works of public art. Critics said, among other things, that if and when the Monona Terrace were ever built, it would cover up the mural. Ten years later it was, and it did. I wrote a blog post awhile back about the work's history and how poignant it was that it had had been effectively entombed. <http://www.peterpatau.com/2008/06/once-madisons-most-controversial-work.html>

What, if anything, do you think should be done about it? There have been suggestions to improve the lighting to make the mural more visible. Personally, I think drive-by viewing at 45mph is far from ideal and not very safe. What about a permanent exhibit at the Monona Terrace showcasing the art and the site as they originally appeared? After all, it's part of the history of Monona Terrace. [https://www.flickr.com/photos/madison\\_guy/17865548852/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/madison_guy/17865548852/)

23 hrs · Edited

Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk, Dagmar Nelson, Karen R McGovern and 2 others like this.

**Joey Johannsen** does the train still run through there? 23 hours ago

**Peter Patau** Occasionally. I had to trespass to take the photo. 23 hours ago

**Joey Johannsen** As every good photographer should, thanks, I've never seen the space from this perspective. 1 · 22 hours ago

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-  **Michael Leland** I like your idea about an exhibit. I think lighting it would be a mistake for safety reasons.  
👍 2 · 22 hours ago
-  **Peter Patau** If the train no longer went there and the tracks were no longer there, it would of course make sense to light the area and make it a public space.  
👍 2 · 22 hours ago
-  **Joey Johannsen** If it were in Europe, outdoor seating and a bar would be paired with the exhibit space.  
👍 2 · 22 hours ago
-  **Peter Patau** Hmm... you might get something like that if the Haas installation were located in the rooftop cafe of Monona Terrace.  
👍 1 · 22 hours ago
-  **Joey Johannsen** but this could be a cool space to bike/walk and socialise.... but guess since the tracks move cargo, they have to stay.  
👍 2 · 22 hours ago
-  **Peter Patau** And, of course, if it were in Europe -- or most states not run by Scott Walker -- the (upgraded) tracks would be part of a high-speed rail system. What a wasted opportunity.  
👍 3 · 22 hours ago · Edited
-  **Joey Johannsen** and a pub would be nearby  
👍 3 · 22 hours ago
-  **Monique Isham** Yes, it's a shame it can't be converted into a public place and lit properly - some sort of wall to keep the drivers from being distracted could be put up easily and inexpensively, but the tracks make it impossible. It is an interesting mural.Thanks for photographing it, Peter.  
👍 2 · 22 hours ago · Edited
-  **Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk** The mural being in Madison is the result of little or no planning and applying for project funding to prove to your employer that you knew how to do it. Remember what was happening at City Hall at the time.  
👍 2 · 17 hours ago
-  **Peter Patau** Ah yes, the Sensenbrenner era.  
👍 2 · 16 hours ago
-  **Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk** Yes and lots more going on.  
👍 2 · 15 hours ago