



MICHELLE GREENE

RAILRIDER'S THRONE, 1991

116th Street-Columbia University 1

Steel

PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHELLE GREENE

Michelle Greene's *Railrider's Throne* introduces humor into the station. The artist says, "I wanted to create a whimsical environment that allows the commuter to feel special as opposed to alienated. I believe that art in a public space has the potential to stir people from their daily routine." And it works. As reported by *Art News* in January 1992, a frequent user of the station commented, "What's weird about that chair is that when you sit in it everyone stares at you. It feels royal." Another rider reported, "There's a musician who plays his violin [in the chair]. At first, I thought he brought the chair with him. I think he makes more money when he sits there." Elements of the chair's design were influenced by the historic tile pattern in the station, reiterating the credo of the original subway designers that ornamental additions to the stations should make the subway a more pleasant place to be.