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Artist Pays Tribute to Iconic PDX Carpet: *Carpet Diem!*

Portland International Airport introduces an exhibit on Concourse D that honors the heavily traveled, soon-to-be replaced 25-year-old terminal carpet.

The exhibit, *Carpet Diem!*, features artwork by local artist Nancy Wilkins. To coincide with the airport's carpet replacement project starting January 2015, Wilkins created a colorful, 11-foot by 16-foot collage made of PDX carpet from different locations throughout the terminal.

Capturing the unique culture of the carpet cult-following at PDX, the collage incorporates trending Instagram photos of traveler's feet on the carpet, big and small, with socks in the existing carpet design, a groovy manicure, and even a PDX pooch. *Carpet Diem!* is a tribute to the historical 1980's retro-style turquoise and purple airport carpet and to all the quirkiness that keeps Portland weird.

"I feel I am always learning, always striving-- hoping to push farther while learning when best to stop", says Wilkins. "What engages me mentally and intuitively -- and what keeps me motivated -is the problem-solving exercise, the collaboration and dance of creating composition in relation to the physical qualities of the materials."

"As an artist used to working with paper, Nancy certainly did take on a challenge when she accepted this project," says Greta Blalock, Port Art Program Administrator. "She responded with



Carpet Diem! created by Nancy Wilkins is on display above the moving walkway at PDX on Concourse D through the end of 2015.

creativity, innovation and just the right amount of humor, and accepted the invitation, frankly, because it was just too quirky to pass up.” PDX’s art program illustrates the dynamic culture of the Pacific Northwest by showcasing a variety of works through ongoing relationships with regional artists and art organizations.

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