

ANA TZAREV

New York Celebrates an Artist's Astonishing Journey from the Streets of Manhattan to National Recognition.



Jimmy Mirikitani at the Ana Tzarev Gallery in New York

NEW YORK: March 20, 2009: The Ana Tzarev Gallery was host last night to 88-year old artist Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani where it presented a special exhibition of his works on loan from the Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle. The evening included a screening of Linda Hattendorf's award winning documentary, *The Cats of Mirikitani*, which follows the story of the artist, who was rescued from homelessness by Linda Hattendorf, when she brought Mr. Mirikitani into her home after 9/11. Over the course of the next months she worked with him to confront the trauma he suffered in the WWII internment camps, and helped him build his new, independent life in New York City.

Jimmy Mirikitani's paintings first achieved widespread recognition in a 2006 exhibition at the Wing Luke Asian Museum. Since that time his works have been displayed in various venues as part of the ongoing effort to acknowledge this devastating episode in U.S. history and the serious impact it had on the lives of the people forced to live in the camps.

The evening was co-hosted by Ana Tzarev Gallery and the Washington DC based organization, Search for Common Ground as part of the Gallery's program to present powerful stories of individual paths taken to triumph over challenges.

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