

gallery show



Queen Lili'uokalani's Quilt (2003) by Ana Tzarev, oil on linen, 195 x 195 cm

Spirit of Hawaii

Until 30 August, Ana Tzarev Gallery,
24 West 57th Street, New York, NY-10019,
www.anatzarev.com

Ana Tzarev's relationship with Hawaii began in 1989. Since then she has returned many times, fascinated by the island group's exuberant local flora and rich cultural traditions. The passion she feels for the place and for Hawaii's legendary hospitality comes across powerfully in her many vibrant studies of its flowers, costumes, customs and rhythmic hula dancing.

In 2003, her study of Hawaiian culture led her to explore a specific episode in its history in four identically-sized, large square canvases. These are painted in her signature style of naif drawing and saturated, heavily impastoed colour, a style indebted to varied sources including her own jewellery designs and, perhaps, the Russian avant-gardists Mikhael Larionov and Nátalia Goncharova.