



P.O. Box 770150
55-03 39th Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377

Co-Directors:
Todd Richmond
Paz Tanjuaquio

phone/fax:
718-505-0440

email:
info@topazarts.org

website:
www.topazarts.org

November 1, 2007
For Immediate Release

For inquiries contact Paz: 718-505-0440
or email: paz@topazarts.org

TOPAZ ARTS' 7th Annual OPEN HOUSE: "*SEEN and UNSEEN*" Saturday, December 1, 2007, 3-6pm

TOPAZ ARTS announces its **7th Annual Open House on Saturday, December 1, 2007 from 3pm to 6pm**. Now in its seventh season of providing programs and space for the performing and visual arts, the multi-faceted arts center TOPAZ ARTS opens its doors for an afternoon of celebrations, featuring an exhibition of new work by visual artists **Philip Brutz** (stereoscopic photography) and **Alan Ulrich** (sculpture), an exclusive **silent auction of artwork** by emerging and established artists, followed by the premiere of new poetry in performance "*The Beauty of Ghosts*" by **Luis H. Francia** at 6pm. A feast for the arts and the community, the Open House event is free from 3-6pm and includes complimentary food and drink. The performance of *The Beauty of Ghosts* on Saturday, December 1 at 6pm and Sunday, December 2 at 3pm has a suggested admission of \$10. **TOPAZ ARTS is located at 55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens**. Subway directions: #7-train to 61 St. or the R, V, G trains to Northern Blvd. Details and directions are available at www.topazarts.org.

+ **Visual Arts Exhibition: "*SEEN and UNSEEN*"** features the stereoscopic photographs of **Philip Brutz** and sculpture by **Alan Ulrich** on view **December 1, 2007 to January 12, 2008**. Gallery hours are open by appointment – please call 718-505-0440 or email info@topazarts.org. Using the stereoscopic method of photography, **Philip Brutz** explores landscapes of natural, manmade and industrial environments. Stereoscopy is an antique technique in which two slightly different photographs are placed side by side. Seen simultaneously through a special viewer, the two images merge and appear three-dimensional. The stereoscopic method in which Brutz employs allows viewers to see—in three-dimensional form—the restricted areas captured in his photographs. Brutz, a lifelong resident of Greater Cleveland, has been working as an artist and technician in the visual arts field for more than 25 years. He is currently the mount maker for the Cleveland Museum of Art. His stereoscopic photographs were exhibited in the 2005 NEO Show and are included in the museum's permanent collection.

Alan Ulrich's one of a kind pieces are inspired from various materials he has collected from construction sites, dumpsters, beaches, and streets. Although he incorporates new material, the core of each piece is centered on these found objects. Working as a carpenter, his heightened awareness of the throw-away and wasteful culture is embodied in the material in which he crafts his sculptures. Ulrich studied at the School of Visual Arts from 1989-1992, and worked for artist Richard Artschwager from 1991-94. He works full-time as a carpenter, dividing his time between NYC and his home in Center Moriches, Long Island.

+ **The Silent Auction** features established and emerging artists who have generously donated their original works in support of TOPAZ ARTS. The proceeds of the sales will benefit TOPAZ ARTS' public programs, productions and ongoing commitment to provide a center for the creative process. A full artist list and images will be available online at www.topazarts.org.



P.O. Box 770150
55-03 39th Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377

Co-Directors:
Todd Richmond
Paz Tanjuaquio

phone/fax:
718-505-0440

email:
info@topazarts.org

website:
www.topazarts.org

November 1, 2007
For Immediate Release

For reservations call: 718-505-0440
or email: rsvp@topazarts.org

***The Beauty of Ghosts* by Luis H. Francia**
Sat, Dec 1, 2007 at 6pm & Sun, Dec 2 at 3pm

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. hosts "*The Beauty of Ghosts*" a new work by poet **Luis H. Francia**.

Francia envisions the work as "a theater of poetry, with the works revolving around, in varying degrees, the immigrant experience in the United States, but grounded in Filipino history, both personal and collective, and as seen through the eyes of five individuals." While each poem speaks for itself, *The Beauty of Ghosts* deals with the intersections of personal memory and history, racism, neo-colonialism, hope, survival, and contemporary realities. The five voices/points of view include a *manong*, or Filipino old-timer; a Comfort Woman, now in her 80's; a middle-aged educated Filipino-American; a young Filipina overseas worker; and a Filipino-American teenager. Directed by Andrew Eisenman, the cast includes actors, poets, and a rapper. The performance also features original music composed by Todd Richmond, co-founder and co-director of TOPAZ ARTS.

There will be two performances presented at **TOPAZ ARTS** located at **55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens: Saturday, December 1 at 6 pm** and **Sunday, December 2 at 3 pm**.

The December 1 performance will be preceded by an Open House, from 3–6 p.m. Suggested donation for each performance is \$10. Reservations are recommended: please call 718-505-0440 or email rsvp@topazarts.org. Subway directions: #7-train to 61 St. or the R, V, G trains to Northern Blvd. Details and directions are available at www.topazarts.org.

About the author: A tale of two cities—Manila and New York—**Luis H. Francia** is the author of several books. Among them are a collection of poems, *Museum of Absences* (2004); the semiautobiographical *Eye of the Fish: A Personal Archipelago* (2001), winner of both the PEN/Open Book and the Asian American Writers literary awards; and *Memories of Overdevelopment*, a collection of essays and reviews (1998). A resident of Jackson Heights, he teaches at the Asian/Pacific/American Studies program at New York University.

The Beauty of Ghosts is made possible, in part, by TOPAZ ARTS Artist Services Program with funds from NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs; funding from the Queens Council on the Arts; the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York University; and from individual contributors.

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by artists **Todd Richmond** (composer/visual artist) and **Paz Tanjuaquio** (choreographer/dancer). TOPAZ ARTS fosters the creative process, produces the collaborative works of its founders and provides public programs for the performing and visual arts. TOPAZ ARTS maintains a 2,500 sq. ft. multidisciplinary arts center in Woodside, Queens housing a dance rehearsal studio, audio room, and gallery. Providing affordable space, technical support, residencies and presentation opportunities, TOPAZ ARTS enables artists to realize their projects and the process shared with audiences.

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is made possible, in part, by public funds from the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; National Endowment for the Arts; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Dance Theater Workshop's Outer/Space Program; Asian American Arts Alliance SOAR Program; Material for the Arts, a program of NYC's Department of Cultural Affairs, Dept. of Sanitation and Board of Education; and the generosity of private individuals.

