



September 27, 2007  
For Immediate Release

For inquiries call: 718-505-0440  
or email: [info@topazarts.org](mailto:info@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](mailto:info@topazarts.org)

website:  
[www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org)

**Postulated Space: *Home Americana***  
**New Paintings by Haejae Lee**

**October 13 to November 10, 2007**  
**Opening reception: Oct 13th, 6–8pm**

**TOPAZ ARTS Gallery, 55-03 39th Avenue, Woodside, NY**  
Gallery hours by appointment: 718-505-0440 or email [info@topazarts.org](mailto:info@topazarts.org)

TOPAZ ARTS hosts artist **Haejae Lee** in her solo exhibition of new paintings "**Postulated Space: *Home Americana***" on view from **October 13 to November 10, 2007**. There will be an **opening reception on Saturday, October 13th from 6–8pm**. TOPAZ ARTS is located at 55-03 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Woodside, Queens. Subway directions: #7-train to 61 St. or the R, V, G trains to Northern Blvd. Detailed directions and info are available at [www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org).

In this new series, Haejae Lee tackles the *idea of home* – the conceptual and psychological meanings of home. The images of paintings are from interiors of homes, personal and familiar images for the artist and for the viewer. In particular, Lee is drawn to the great American houses of the West that seem to manifest a longing for a perfect and absolute home. Although a great deal of emphasis is placed on the visual and physical characteristics of actual space, the focus of her inquiry into *home* is our idea of home and our reaction to this personal space. Through her imagery of interiors the artist poses questions about the emotional and physical aspects of home:

In this project, my concern is not the interpretation of real space. The interiors of the homes are described with *true to life* articulation, neither altered nor distorted. By avoiding the interpretation of real space, I hope to encourage the emotional displacement of my audience. How does a viewer react to a realistically painted room, an isolated but intimately detailed view of an unknown home? How do the conventional feelings associated with *home* such as comfort, safety, and warmth change in relation to the space? Does the quintessential American room welcome a viewer, or do familiar elements become strange or disconnected? What is the difference between the home in



[www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org)

our hearts and the physical space it fills? Ultimately, the goal of my project is to reexamine this postulated space and reconsider what we know and what we believe about it.

Many people have an intimate relationship with a place called *home*. If not, they might feel the absence of this place like I do, and have an intimate relationship with the *idea of home* instead. My immigration to the United States as a teenager pushed me through many stages of unprepared adjustment, both emotional and physical. Without a family structure and without a home, I struggled with the responsibility of providing a sense of safety for myself. Among all the internal changes I experienced, the most significant shift was the concept of "home". It has been altered, deconstructed, and built anew. My longing for a home is the motivation and force behind my project. Through my paintings, my intention is to explore this space called *home*.

— Haejae Lee

**Haejae Lee** was born in Seoul, Korea. She received her M.F.A. in Printmaking at Tyler School of Art, PA and her B.F.A. in Painting at SUNY Purchase College, NY. She is a recipient of a 2007 Queens Council on the Arts Individual Artist Award with funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

---

**TOPAZ ARTS, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by composer/visual artist **Todd Richmond** and choreographer/dancer **Paz Tanjuaquio**. TOPAZ ARTS fosters the creative process, producing new works and provides public programs for contemporary dance, music and visual arts. TOPAZ ARTS maintains a 2,500 sq. ft. multidisciplinary arts center in Woodside, Queens which includes a dance rehearsal space, 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 New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Carnegie Corporation of New York; JP Morgan Chase Foundation, 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.

– END –