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For Immediate Release

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## ***Illuminations: Paintings by Iris***

**May 10 to June 8, 2008**

**TOPAZ ARTS Gallery**  
**55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens**  
**Opening Reception: Sat. May 10th, 3-6pm**

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is pleased to present ***Illuminations: Paintings by Iris*** on view from **May 10 to June 8, 2008** with an opening reception on Saturday, **May 10th, 3-6pm** at TOPAZ ARTS Gallery. Active in New York City's avant-garde arts scene since the late 1960's and early 70's, Iris exhibits her latest body of work illuminating a visual exploration of internal and atmospheric landscapes. At once meticulous and expansive, Iris explores the outer edges of inner space, for which painting becomes a manifestation of life itself. These sublime works of oil on canvas transcend a deep realm of consciousness, creating an experiential sensation.

The work of **Iris Lezak** spans from early collaborations with poet Jackson Mac Low in NYC to exhibiting in solo and group shows in Portland, Boston, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Born in Chicago to parents who had emigrated from the Ukraine, Iris grew up in Hyde Park before going to Reed College in Portland, Oregon where she received her B.A. in Fine Arts. Since then she has continued to paint, living for extended periods in Philadelphia, Boston, Levittown, NJ and Los Angeles, with shorter sojourns in London, Puerto Rico and a ranch in Montana. She now lives and works in New York City.

**TOPAZ ARTS Gallery 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 available at <http://www.topazarts.org/TPZdirections.html>. Gallery hours are open by appointment only – please call 718-505-0440 or email [info@topazarts.org](mailto:info@topazarts.org). For more info, please visit our website at [www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org).

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**TOPAZ ARTS, Inc.** is a nonprofit organization founded in 2000 by collaborating artists **Todd Richmond** and **Paz Tanjuaquio**. TOPAZ ARTS fosters the creative process, producing new works and provides public programs for the performing and visual arts. TOPAZ ARTS maintains a 2,500 sq. ft. multidisciplinary arts center in Woodside, Queens which includes a dance 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. For more info, visit [www.topazarts.org](http://www.topazarts.org).

The **TOPAZ ARTS Visual Arts Program** is made possible, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

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