



March 18, 2009

Press Release

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Chinese American Arts Council proudly presents "**Asian Pacific Roots in the Big Apple**" a photo exhibit curate by Corky Lee at its **Gallery 456**. The exhibition is to showcase works by four award-winning photographers **Alan Chin, Corky Lee, Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao, and Karen Zhou**. It opens on Friday, March 20, 2009 and runs through April 23. It is part of the city's 6th Annual Immigrant Heritage Week (April 17-23).

"The collection of images by the photographers represent a pictorial and picturesque omission in America's discussion of what constitutes the American landscape and who belongs. In a city of immense and diverse peoples, Asians are not often seen because of generations of benign neglect and indifference.

"As a nation of immigrants, I'm fortunate that the city of my birth recognizes that my ginseng roots can be nurtured in America's soil. That's what I was taught, that's what I believe. Perhaps through the universal language of photography Asian and Pacific peoples will be less foreign and better understood," Corky Lee said.

Alan Chin, a veteran photojournalist, has covered conflicts in Iraq, the ex-Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Central Asia, and the Middle East. Alan has most recently documented the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi, the 2008 Presidential Campaign, and followed the trail of the Civil Rights Movement in the South. "**Asian Pacific Roots in the Big Apple**" featured seven of his pictures all in black and white and all showcases individuals, the characters and personalities of the street. Chin stated, "Each of us with our own story, fresh-off-the-boat or American-born, gathered together once each year, to start it afresh."

Documenting Asian American Community for more than 35 years, Corky Lee, a self-taught photographer, self-appointed "unofficial, undisputed Asian American photographer laureate". His passion and activism "photographic justice" was fully demonstrated in eight of his exhibited photos, which bring to light the struggles and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans.

"*Roosevelt Avenue Station A, Jackson Heights*" (loan Jule Saul Gallery) is part of Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao's *Habitat 7* series -- "While I've been living along these tracks for years, I am still constantly awed by the complexity of the communities formed alongside it as well as the harmony so many people of distinct backgrounds are able to live in. I set out to photograph the 'habitat' of the 7 Train as I came to see it, with a focus on not the individual but the people as a whole, as well as their relationship with their environment," said Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao, whose monograph, **Habitat 7** (published by Nazraeli Press in 2007), will be also in exhibit. Liao's works are scheduled to showcase in Bronx Museum of Art in NYC, J. Paul Getty Museum in CA, Rose Gallery in CA and Julie Saul Galelry in NYC.



Chinese American Arts Council

Gallery 456

Karen Zhou, an emergent artist, has been published in National Geographics' book on Lunar New Year and has been a contributor of food photography to Time Out NY. "In documenting the APA communities, there is a richness to the diversity and flavor of each culture. I've tried to express each moment as intimately as if the viewer was there seeing

the subject with me," said Karen Zhou. Eight of her recent works are featured in "***Asian Pacific Roots in the Big Apple***".

Along with the exhibition, there are four ***Saturday Post Dim Sum Artist Talk*** from 1 –3 pm featuring Henry Chang, mystery detective author, on "Chinatown Beat" & "Year of the Dog" (March 18), Alan Chin, freelance war photographer, NY Times, Newsweek COLORS and Esquire (April 4), Joann Faung Jean Lee, PhD professor, TV journalist, author "Asian American in the 21st Century" (April 11), and Next Gen APA photographers with Jeff Liao and Karen Zhou (April 18).

Gallery 456 is located at 456 Broadway, 3rd Floor (and Grand Street), New York NY 10013. For more information, please call 212-431-9740.

The programs of Chinese American Arts Council/Gallery 456 are supported in part by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, New York State Office of Park, Recreation and Historic Preservation, The City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs, and friends of CAAC. Special thanks to Assemblyman Sheldon Silver.