



The Gazette

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Astoria/LIC Artist Mieko Anekawa Hosts Solo Show

By Cristina Guarino



Photo Credit Takashi Ikezawa Spectators look on during the show's events. On April 12, Resobox Art Gallery, 41-26 27th St. in Long Island City hosted the opening night of Long Island City artist Mieko Anekawa's solo exhibition.

Anekawa, who is best regarded for her unique melding of graphic design, fashion and painting, has been featured in the Queens Gazette on several occasions due to her growing popularity and influence in the Astoria/Long Island City art scene. Amongst other events, she was a featured artist at Art ALIVE Astoria, the neighborhood's first contemporary art affair in September of 2011. In October of 2011, she was featured at Space Womb, 22-48 Jackson Avenue for her series of hairstyle portraits composed of acrylic paints and recycled products. Anekawa can now enjoy her solo show at Resobox through May 2.

The opening featured a bustling turnout of locals enjoying the wide array of Anekawa's talents. Besides the displayed artwork, there was also live painting by Anekawa herself, as well as a performance by Hito+ and Water Brain (www.hitominozawa.com) and an Ikebana Art Installation by Japanese flower arrangement artist Akiyo Sano (www.akiyosano.com).

The art was arranged from oldest to most recent, showcasing a progression of Anekawa's talent and style. By her newer works, Ikebana artist Akiyo Sano arranged his flower art around the window, so that outside spectators could see a nature-framed window looking in on Anekawa's newest pieces. The performance was joined by three contemporary dancers interpreting the emotion of Anekawa's art to music composed by the gallery owners. Her live painting session was an abstract, experimental painting in a spontaneous splash style on headdresses that she created for the show. "In this show a lot of the art had a theme of women, motherhood and nature," Anekawa said. "One big point I want to make is that I am currently pregnant with my second child, and I am fortunate that I was able to paint many of the new works while pregnant. That way I could really capture the feelings and emotions of carrying a child, being a mother and getting in touch once again with nature and women's true power to give birth and express that in my art."