

# LIC Arts Review: Reso Box

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[Reso Box](#) is an exciting arts venture on 27<sup>th</sup> Street just north of Queens Plaza. Owned by Takashi Ikezawa and Fumio Tashiro, this small space offers a range of classes, exhibitions and performance events that have their roots in Japanese culture and a spirit of creative collaboration which draws from the owners' philosophical, musical and business backgrounds. The name "Reso Box" reflects the owner's wish for the space to be a box within which artistic ventures may resonate with each other and form unique creations, some of which may be "of the moment" in the form of improvisations involving musicians, dancers and fine artists and others which may offer finished artwork which may be exhibited and purchased.



Takashi and Fumio

Currently the space is occupied by an exhibition of art from Japanese born and Queens resident Ayakoh Furukawa. "**Who Was Not Created By A Woman?**" is a collection of pieces that demonstrate the artist's craft in drawing, painting and knitting, all presented with an emphasis on themes around femininity, in its social, spiritual, psychological and political dimensions. Most striking in the exhibition is a set of knitted (or are they crocheted) vaginas, each of which present aspects of femininity, sometimes entertaining and humorous and sometimes striking in their beauty. "Knitting is soft and warm, like your mother", she says as she presents these 12 larger than life, pieces.



Also offered are drawings of women and children, created by the artist from texts which are repeated to form the lines and shades of these often life-size images. Furukawa takes her short texts from a range of sources: herself, Coco Chanel, Mother Teresa and Oprah Winfrey and weaves them into images that are, themselves, quite beautiful, and then, when you get close to read them, more meaningful through the conjunction of text and image. “You can compare the image and the words and make your own conclusions”, she says.

Most interesting were her full length text drawings of women and children from Thai mountain peoples, who, like some African women, wear rings as collars from childhood, extending their necks in ways that betray a kind of bondage, but also, via tourism, give these women the power to earn in ways that their men folk cannot: “...it looks like they are trapped in a coil, but in reality they make a lot of money for their family”.

In a large text drawing of the Japanese god Amaterasu, ruler of the sun and heavens and opponent of her brother [Tsukuyomi](#), the god of the moon and ruler of the night Furukawa uses her own text to create a figure which, to me, showed stylistic influences that were Oriental, Indian and European-Classical.



For her text she writes: “Mother I have been inside of you for ten months and listened to your heartbeat in every moment of your life, you created this perfect shrine for my soul, my body is an entity of the ancient secrets of life that your womb remembers“, and in doing so makes homage to motherhood, femininity and, what Jung called the “Collective Unconscious”.



“Who Was Not Created By A Woman” can be viewed at Reso Box, 41-26, 27<sup>th</sup> Street, LIC, NY 11101 until February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reso Box also offers classes for adults and children in: Japanese Classical Dance, Okinawan Dance, Samurai Sword, Ink Painting and illustration, Karate and Stick Fighting. Check out [www.resobox.com](http://www.resobox.com)

by Eric Hathaway

For a more in-depth review of this exhibition check out Eric’s blog at [www.sometimeinlongislandcity.wordpress.com](http://www.sometimeinlongislandcity.wordpress.com)