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by Renee Minus White

Yukako Ishida's art on view at Café One

Known for its homemade muffins, creative pastries and java drinks, Hamilton Heights' Café One is also establishing itself as a destination for fine art. From now through August 30, the well-known coffee shop on the corner of West 140th Street and Amsterdam Avenue (across the street from City College) presents the beautiful artwork of Yukako Ishida.

Inspired by her experience while practicing Japanese calligraphy, her artwork features a jazz-like energy and lyrical color that's an exaggerated vision of figurative beauty. She uses a process and materials that bridge classic Japanese and modern Western traditions.

"My goal in art is to depict an 'energetic' truth in the moment and to integrate and honor nature," said Ishida. "Using the inherent qualities of traditional materials, I continue to produce a cultural resonance within the viewer."

Born in Hirosaki City, Japan, Ishida studied education at the university and was a teacher at Tsuda College, Sanbongi High School, and Travel Journal Tourism College before she embarked on a business career with gourmet chocolate company Barry Caliebaut. Dividing her time at school and in business, she traveled the world extensively and lived in Amsterdam, Singapore, San Francisco, Aomori and Tokyo. She is also a member of The Art Student League of New York.



Aiming to promote local talent by showcasing the works of professional artists in the community, Café One has partnered with artist and curator Misha McGlown to select and manage the changing exhibitions.

As curator-in-residence, McGlown will cater new artwork to Café One's sunny walls every two to three months, creating exposure for a pool of painters and multi-medium artists from Harlem, Harlem Arts Alliance, The Children's Art Carnival and the community at large

Café One customers have grown to look forward to the exhibitions, supporting the artists and often engaging in conversations about the work while enjoying their eats and treats. The current exhibition, featuring Ishida's vibrant works, kicks off the partnership between Café One and McGlown.

Ishida infuses mixed-medium painting and drawing with traditional techniques and materials to create expressive works on an authentic handmade Japanese rice paper called *kojo*. A high-spirited and prolific artist, Ishida has recently received two prestigious honors from The Art Students' League of New York: She was named "Best in Show" earlier this year and was consequently voted to be added to ASL's permanent collection. These are major accomplishments in the world of art and signs of a bright future for the artist.

Café One is honored to have a dozen of Yukako's paintings, adding conspicuous cheer and electricity to the atmosphere through August 30. Café One's business hours are Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. A closing reception for the artist will be held in August with details to be announced.

By RENEE MINUS WHITE
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