

## **“Crossing Brooklyn Bridge” by Yuko Nii October 2004**

Brooklyn waterfront paintings from Red Hook, Gowanus & So. Brooklyn

**Organized by Vincent Pinto,**

**Curated by Regina Perlin & Patricia Melvin**

Ronald DeNota, Raphael Eisenberg, Stan Fein, Julia Foote, Myron Heise, Patricia Melvin, Regina Perlin, Vincent Pinto, Andy Pizzo, George Rada, Eleanor Schnurr, John Silver, Ella Yang

A number of Brooklyn and Manhattan artists have been at work along the Red Hook and Gowanus waterfront. Red Hook has been covered a lot lately by the Times and the trendy magazines because it seems poised on the verge of "development." Since Fairway, the up-scale supermarket, will soon move in, only a few years from now this quiet neighborhood will become another destination area. It is an area rich in history and lore, closely connected to maritime life. This body of work in a sense represents a "good bye" to that life, as it does also to the old industrial part of New York City generally. interest.

The industrial character of Red Hook and Gowanus, the special harborside light and the quiet, make it appealing. The great rusting Revere Sugar Factory dominates the skyline. The now still New York Shipyard Company, the historic barge terminal called Erie Basin, a small abandoned Norwegian seamen's church, rest in the past. Little two story houses, trolley cars, and Lightship No. 84, sinking, are all features. As one of the artists has written: "even decrepit buildings can be graced by sunlight, atmosphere, and the presence of Nature." There is something spiritual about the place and its separateness, with the Manhattan skyline looming as a backdrop.

The styles vary, ranging from camera-like renditions to Avery-like simplifications. All of the paintings are personal statements about these little seen places