

NEWS ALERT

Howl! Happening: an Arturo Vega Project
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**HOWL! HAPPENING: An Arturo Vega Project Presents
Friday, November 18—Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

TOYO TSUCHIYA *Invisible Underground* Photographs, Paintings and Sculpture



[Tsuchiya's images] feel like reports of life on another, hipper planet, of which little trace would remain were it not for his persistent and attentive recording eye.

—Holland Cotter, "Six O'Clock Observed," *The New York Times*, 1999

Howl! Happening is pleased to present a survey of the work Toyo Tsuchiya, including photographs from the *No Se No 99 Nights*, a 10-foot print of his iconic image of a garden party in full swing amidst the rubble and ruin of a tenement building, and other series that capture the Lower East Side during its heyday in the 80s. His photographs embody Toyo's search for human connection and identity.

Also featured will be a large scale, life-sized installation depicting workers in Chinatown on their lunch break, with a pathos and presence reminiscent of Ed Kienholz; as well as new, colorful paintings inspired by 30 years of shooting in New York City.

Opening Reception: Friday, November 18, 6-9 PM. For information visit howlarts.org

Tsuchiya is best known for his photographs of New York City's Lower East Side art scene in the 80s and as originator of the legendary Rivington School. In these highly personalized images of New York's Lower East Side since 1980, Tsuchiya documented what was happening around him—the people, performance art, and Lower East Side art scene—and especially the legendary underground movement of the collaborative Rivington School.

Born near Mt. Fuji in Japan, Tsuchiya grew up in Kyushu and Yokohama. After graduating from the Kanagawa Ken Technical High School for Industrial Design he began his career as an artist. Living in Osaka, Yokohama, and Tokyo, he studied and exhibited paintings, drawings and collage within a small circle of the 70s art world in Tokyo. Towards the end of that decade he turned to photography, and soon moved to New York City.

Tsuchiya was a creative force behind the No Se No Social Club, the stage for many art happenings, including the *99 Nights*, a marathon of free performances and exhibitions. In his photographs, Tsuchiya captures the style, energy, and free-spirited creativity of the time, and contextualized these happenings in a fine art lineage.

Tsuchiya photographed the great performers of the era, including Stelarc, Jack Smith, Tehching Hsieh, Monty Cantsin and Karen Black, to name a few. He also curated shows with now notable artists like Ai Weiwei. His work has, as Tsuchiya acknowledges, "become part of the underground history of the Lower East Side art and life of the 80s. All of my intention and passion of the 80s remains in those images."

Iconoclastic and against the grain, Holland Cotter says in his review: *His subject wasn't the professionalized East Village gallery phenomenon but the fringe activity taking place in the working class, primarily Hispanic neighborhood centered below Houston Street on Rivington Street. There, art, music and performance intermingled; graffiti and Neo-Expression held their own after their vogue had passed elsewhere. The atmosphere was squatter-anarchic; artists, collectively referred to as the Rivington School, met in clubs and worked in the street.*

In recent years, Tsuchiya has turned to collage, drawing, sculpture and mixed media, and continues to explore new media and outlets for his relentless creativity.

Photo Above: [caption to come](#)

Photo attached: [caption to come](#)

How! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project
6 East First Street (Between Bowery and 2nd Ave)
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Gallery Hours: Wed–Sun, 11 AM–6 PM

[About How! Happening](#)

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