

THE Sunday Telegraph

March 5, 2006

\$1.60 Including GST



In demand: Expatriate painter Margi Lim

Artist dazzles the Big Apple

By ADAM HARVEY

AN artist who fled her home town of Whyalla, South Australia for a grander life has brightened the oak-panelled grottoes of New York's famously private National Arts Club.

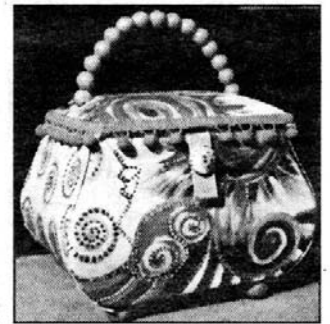
A colourful exhibition by Margi Lim has been hung inside the 110-year-old club's exclusive Gramercy Park mansion.

That's quite an achievement for a self-taught painter, and several of Lim's paintings have sold for around \$20,000.

Her work has been praised by well-regarded US sports artist LeRoy Neiman and pop artist James Rizzi.

The National Arts Club is an invitation-only institution.

Its \$5000 annual dues are paid by the likes of Robert Redford, Martin



Talent: A Lim sewing box

Scorsese and Dennis Hopper.

The club is accessible only to residents of the elite apartment buildings that surround it.

It's a long way from the dusty, working-class streets of Whyalla in remote South Australia, Lim says.

"My dad worked for BHP," she says.

"At 17, I thought: 'There's got to be more to life than Whyalla' — so I left and never went back."

The 41-year-old paints about 30 works a year.