

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Toshiko Nishikawa: *Senbazuru***

**Dates:** October 29 – December 9, 2010

**Location:** 167 East 73rd Street, New York, NY 10021

**Hours:** Wednesday – Saturday, 12 PM – 6 PM and by appointment

**Admission:** Free

**Closing Reception:** Friday, December 10, 2010, 6 PM – 9 PM (Invitation Only)

**Press Contact:** Anne Schruth; 212.472.2500/ [anne.schruth@vilcek.org](mailto:anne.schruth@vilcek.org)



ARTIST TOSHIKO  
NISHIKAWA

### **Reflections of the World in 1,000 Mirrored Orbs**

*Exhibition Opens October 29 at the Vilcek Foundation, New York*

**New York, September 21, 2010** — At *Senbazuru*, a new interactive installation by Toshiko Nishikawa, viewers are drawn to gaze at a world within a world. Debuting October 29, 2010, at the Vilcek Foundation Gallery in New York City, visitors to the exhibit will be met by 1,000 small mirrored orbs, enticingly and purposefully suspended within reach from the gallery ceiling, where they form a reflective web.

Japanese-born Nishikawa was inspired by a dream she had many years ago to create a microcosmic representation of the world. *Senbazuru* is that dream come true. Each of the 1,000 orbs is connected to those around it, and by peering into the concave mirror contained within each orb, visitors not only see themselves, but become linked to those standing nearby, who are captivated by neighboring orbs. In this way, visitors gain insight into their own tiny universe and inner life, while recognizing themselves as connected to the global community, a concept representative of Ms. Nishikawa's sensibilities as an artist and human being.

Reflecting on this unique and groundbreaking exhibition, Rick Kinsel, Vilcek Foundation Executive Director, said, "We all can benefit, from time to time, by getting a look at ourselves from a new perspective — the way it feels when we turn a corner and unexpectedly are met with our own image in a storefront window. That remarkable sensation is magnified hundreds of times over when revolving around and with Toshiko's fascinating creation."

As Ms. Nishikawa explains this exhibition offers a way to see oneself in 1,000 different ways (*senbazuru* is Japanese for "1,000 origami cranes" and refers to a prayer for others' health and happiness). It is also, in part, a commentary on her own immigration experience. When living in Japan (she was born in Yokohama), this peace-loving and community-minded artist says she saw herself in only one particular way. But after moving to New York, where she now lives and works, she began to see herself in 1,000 different ways, as someone connected not just to every other person, but to every living organism around her. She also became aware of her own inner beauty, as well as the beauty that exists in nature and in those around her. This awakening now manifests throughout Ms. Nishikawa's work and informs many of her decisions as an artist.

## **THE VILCEK FOUNDATION**

The Vilcek Foundation was established in 2000 by Jan and Marica Vilcek, immigrants from the former Czechoslovakia. The mission of the Foundation, to honor the contributions of foreign-born scholars and artists living in the United States, was inspired by the couple's careers in biomedical science and art history, respectively, as well as their personal experiences and appreciation for the opportunities they received as newcomers to this country. The Foundation hosts events to promote the work of immigrants, and awards annual prizes to prominent immigrant biomedical scientists and artists who make outstanding contributions to American society.

To learn more about the Vilcek Foundation, visit [www.vilcek.org](http://www.vilcek.org).