

Power captures real people of Nova Scotia

ART

By Dean Lisk - The Daily News

When it came time to paint the diverse, interesting and character-filled faces of Nova Scotia, Zehava Power wanted to capture both stereotypical and the unique.

"These are people that you see everywhere," said the local artist, who is currently displaying her paintings in a show called The People of Nova Scotia at the Craig Gallery in Alderney Landing.

"I'm trying to create pictures of people that anybody who lives here might know, or have seen someone similar in the Public Gardens or on the waterfront. I just wanted views that everyone could relate to."

On display through Sept. 24, the 30 paintings in her show feature bold and colourful images of people relaxing on park benches, eating on Argyle Street, sailing on the water, playing on the beach, or simply busy at work.

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** The People of Nova Scotia, paintings by Zehava Power
- **WHERE:** The Craig Gallery, Alderney Landing
- **WHEN:** Through Sept. 24
- **ONLINE:** www.zehava.ca

A self-taught painter, Power first picked-up a brush in 1984. She was 22 years old, and had just finished serving in the Israeli Air Force. She immigrated to Canada with her parents the following year.

Power went to school as a graphic artist because it was a way she could be creative and earn a living. She later realized working for someone else was not as creatively free as she had hoped it would be.

In 1999, she started painting murals for business and homes, and started teaching art workshops to elementary-school children and adults.

"Painting provided full freedom;

you could basically do what you wanted," she said. "You could let the juices flow."

Painting from photographs she snaps herself or snips from newspapers and magazines, Power will edit the images — removing and adding people, backgrounds or objects — to set up scenes which appeal to her.

"It's a convenient working from photographs," she said. "If I didn't have a specific shot I wanted, I got someone to pose for it."

"The exciting part for me happens when I see the photo I want to paint. I love colour and I love contrast. I start looking forward to painting."

Power said the show is very accessible to people who may not know that much about art. The subject material is instantly familiar to the average person.

"The ultimate compliment is for someone to be moved by something I've painted," she said.

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ANDRE FORGET

ON DISPLAY: Zehava Power says her artwork, which can be seen at the Craig Gallery in Alderney Landing, is accessible to people who know little about art.