

Zehava, Nicole Power, a mother and daughter art team

By Heather White Brittain

In our neighborhoods, there exists all kind of hidden talent. In one of these settings there is a family that holds a very talented mother and daughter. They share more than being related, as they are both very talented painters. They are Zehava and Nicole Power.

Zehava has been making a name for herself in the local arts community for some time now. Originally from Israel, Zehava moved to Canada with her family and in time, met her husband who is from Nova Scotia. As a child, she was exposed to different forms of visual art. Her mother did pottery and artistic enamel work. Her father was a "more practical artist" and was very skilled in renovations. After serving in the Israeli Air Force for three years, Zehava enrolled in a graphic design program at a local college and completed a certificate in graphic design. This is how she made her

career, but along the way, she took her first painting class and discovered that she quite liked it.

For Zehava, the painting experience turned into something more. Becoming very progressive in her art, Zehava has been part of several exhibits. Recently, there was a solo exhibit at the Craig Gallery and this month she will be one of the featured artists in the Pre-Shrunk exhibit at Argyle Fine Art. With a style that she feels "has been influenced by the French Impressionists, The Group of Seven and other contemporary artists," Zehava Power's work has evolved into a style that is very much her own. Known for subjects that are interesting and filled with colour and light, Zehava's work is enjoyed by many.

In October, the artist participated in the Rockingham United Church Art Exhibit. There were a number of artists exhibiting for the fundraiser and one of them her daughter

Nicole. Viewers were unaware that Nicole is Zehava's daughter, but what they did recognize was that there was a new artist among the group and that she was quite good. The younger painter is a grade 10 student at Halifax West. Highly academic, Nicole is taking French Immersion and is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate Program. She plays several sports and is the Student Council representative for her grade. Somewhere in there, she has also found time to become a painter.

At the age of seven, Nicole found herself taking art lessons from a painter who allowed her much freedom. Recalling that she would "show up at the instructor's studio and how she was given the freedom and space to work," it is easy to envision how the environment would be such a positive one for a beginner painter and especially for a young child. Meanwhile at home, Nicole had the advantage of watching her mother work. Inadvertently, it was through her mother that Nicole first started to exhibit her work.

The young artist's first exhibit was during the Annapolis Paint The Town event. Zehava was there to paint during the annual event. On location, original works are created very quickly. Nicole asked to accompany her mother and Zehava agreed but reminded her daughter that, "she would have to do her own thing and couldn't be needy."

On the first day, Nicole used some colored pencils and finished some pieces. By the second day, she was using acrylics and painting along side her mother and other experienced artists. "I didn't give her any assistance," remarks her mother. "She knew that she had to be independent." The work sold and now she has a repeat clientele. This past summer marked Nicole's fourth summer painting at the event.



Artists Zehava and Nicole Power.