

# Seeing red in a pale blue sea

## Emerging artist's home on the Red Sea inspired lobster

By ELISSA BARNARD  
Arts Reporter

**H**ALIFAX artist Zehava Power drew on her Israeli childhood in designing Fishy Lobster, sponsored by Clearwater Foods, and standing inside the new entrance to the IWK Health Centre.

Fishy Lobster is one of 31, six-foot fibreglass lobsters painted by artists as a fundraiser for the Abilities Foundation of Nova Scotia and located in various HRM sites until October. Maps are at tourist centres and on the web: [www.lobstersinthecity.com](http://www.lobstersinthecity.com).

**Why participate?:** "I am what's called an emerging artist and I'm trying very hard to emerge. I try to get involved in whatever's going on and I think it's a great cause. A few years ago I was in Toronto when they had the moose equivalent event and I thought 'I wish I could participate.' Ideas for her design of bright fish, eels and sea horses in a pale blue sea: "I was born in Israel in a town called Eilat and it's right on the Red Sea. It borders with Egypt and it is one of the most beautiful scuba diving sites in the world. Growing up we were exposed to this beautiful site and we'd go snorkelling with my dad and they had these glass-bottomed boats and you'd always see these gorgeous fish and I'm big on colour. Most of my work has very bold colour."

**Challenges:** "It was in the middle of my home studio. It was a house guest. It's different from working on a flat canvas. You have to consider the curvature of the object. There is an eel that wraps around it. I made fish on the claws and the inside of the claw I painted like the inside of the fish's mouth. It



Zehava Power painted imaginary tropical fish in a pale blue sea for her Fishy Lobster at the new entrance to the IWK Health Centre. Fishy Lobster, housed indoors and near the Tim Hortons, is one of 31 fibreglass lobsters painted by artists to raise money for the Abilities Foundation of Nova Scotia. (CHRISTIAN LAFORCE / Staff)

## CATCH OF THE DAY

took a little more creativity."

**Background:** Born and raised in Israel, Power was 25 when she moved to Toronto in 1987 with her family. She met her husband, Don Power, in Toronto. "He always said, 'I'm only here for a short time. I'm going back home.' We literally live in the house he grew up in, we bought it from his parents."

Power's late father was creative; her mother worked in pottery and enamel and likes batik. Always interested in art herself, Power initially studied graphic design and worked as a graphic designer for 10 years. "I thought that would be the most practical way to find a job that was creative. I got tired of it. It was an office job sitting in front of a computer."

Power, the mother of two, started painting interior murals and has painted them across Canada. Her mural at the Carlson Wagonlit-Harvey's Travel offices in Bayers Lake ended up on a Trailer Park

Boys episode. Fish are also in her mural for the child services office at the Captain William Spry Centre in Spryfield. "They wanted to make their reception area more friendly and we chose the same subject matter. Typically when I paint people are my favourite subjects and Mediterranean landscapes."

Now working as a full-time artist, Power had a solo show in March at the Economy Shoe Shop, was in the Art Sales and Rentals New Faces exhibit this summer and has been in many group shows.

Her work is at Arts Sales and Rental, Art Pieces gallery in Bedford and Jenny Jib in Lunenburg. Power participated in Lunenburg's Paint Sea on Site and Annapolis Royal's Paint the Town.

"I sold 14 paintings on the weekend in Annapolis Royal. You give 50 per cent to the town and I was doing only small studies but I came home with \$800 so I was pleased with that."

She is also a member of the MacDonald House co-operative gallery in Lawrencetown, and painted views of the area from

the third floor window on quiet days when she was sitting in the gallery. "They all sold."

Power is on the Halifax Art Map and her website address is: [www.zehava.ca](http://www.zehava.ca).

**Reactions to Fishy Lobster:** "People think it's nice and bright. Personally, I think it's a great location for it. It appeals to children and the way the interior design is done it's bright colours." Her husband was alarmed by her title and told her people use the term fishy to apply to something suspicious or off-putting. However, Power, in choosing a playful title, was thinking of how kids use the term fishies for fish.

**Favourite lobsters by other artists:** "I think the glass one (Lobster 54 by Philip Doucette) is really neat; it's so different from the other ones. I love the rock one by Maria Valverde, the one with the jewels by Kay Stanfield, I like that. There is

another I really liked, the red one in the Halifax Shopping Centre (Ocean Romance by Stacy Morash).

**Favourite way to eat lobster:** "I do eat lobster sometimes. The first time my husband brought me to Nova Scotia to visit, one of his aunts decided to put on a lobster dinner to impress us and be really nice. I was shocked when they were cooking them. I didn't realize they put them in the water alive; I could hear them squeal. And they covered the table with newspapers — now I understand why. And they have two kids who love lobster and before I knew it — was so grossed out — they had opened up to the roe and the green stuff and the kids were fighting over it."

"At one point I looked at the table and thought that looks like huge cockroaches. I just ate the claws, I couldn't deal with the body. I gave it to the kids."