



(Contributed images.)



Zehava Power: 'The People of Nova Scotia'

By Heather White Brittain

dad was a "more practical artist" that was very skilled in renovations and presenting "neat solutions to daily challenges."

After serving in the Israeli Air Force for three years, and then in her early twenties, Zehava happened upon a painting class and for the first time, she used professional paints and brushes. Later, she enrolled in a graphic design program at a local college and completed a certificate in graphic design. This would provide a good career for Zehava along the way and over the years, she continued to paint and develop her painting skills. Well traveled, Zehava was always involved in the arts community wherever she lived and attended many workshops and classes and would exhibit with other local artists.

All of this must have been progressive for the artist in her growth. Feeling that her style has been influenced by the French Impressionists, the Group of Seven and other contemporary artists, Zehava's work offers her own unique style and this is largely because of colour. Many viewers would say that this is her 'trade mark'. Acknowledging this, the artist admits how "she craves colour." Growing up in the Mediterranean, Zehava says that the light is different there and she does miss the backdrop of light from that climate. However, even with the light contrast and comparing it to where she lives now, the artist is able to deal with a subject matter that does not have specific colour and impressively make it appear on canvass. "I am not concerned about seeing colour," says the artist. "I can take care of that myself."

In the end, the work speaks for the artist and portrays something that is alive and riveting. Displaying the work of one who is especially confident with how she has mastered colour. It is all very good.

Zehava Power's web site is
www.zehava.ca

Last January, Halifax artist Zehava Power submitted a proposal to the Craig Gallery for a solo exhibition. Typically, the gallery's bookings are two years in advance and Zehava was taken by surprise to learn that because of a cancellation, her exhibit could take place earlier than expected. Of course, it meant a lot of painting had to be done. However, the end result is a wonderful body of work.

Admittedly, the artist says that this is a "big deal" for her. Both "excited and anxious," Zehava's third solo show will take place at the Craig Gallery and run from September 1st through the 24th. Titled, 'The People of Nova Scotia', the work will feature a variety of figurative work that Zehava Power is becoming well known for.

Originally from Israel, Zehava is a self-taught artist who moved to Canada in the 1980s. She met her husband in Toronto and from there, they moved to his origins, Nova Scotia. They have two children and except for the "colder climate," Zehava loves

it here. She especially loves the beauty of this province and notes how it provides much in the way of inspiration for any artist to draw from. When Zehava was preparing for this current exhibit, the turmoil between Israel and Lebanon was ever present. Many of her family live there and she was often distracted. Saying that, "they are fine and that things seem to be okay for them right now." Zehava continued on with her work and has produced a large number of paintings for this current exhibit.

Zehava says that her environment growing up in the Mediterranean was not unlike the Western environment that she is in today. As a child, she did many similar things that her children are doing here in Nova Scotia and today, her sister's children in Israel do more of the same: swimming, playing soccer and simply being kids. However, she does credit her parents for their creativity and thinks that it must have rubbed off. Her mother did pottery and was quite involved as an artist with enamel work. Her