

# ARTS ROUNDUP



▲ BEDOUIN GIRL BY ZEHAVA POWER

## A SPECTRUM OF COLOURS REVEALED ON EVERYDAY FACES

Other than at Halloween or maybe the occasional football rally, it's a rare occasion where you'll find people's faces painted fluorescent green or a bright orange-gold.

But for Thornhill Village artist Zehava Power, the surreal palette is an everyday choice for most of her portraits and figurative work.

Samples of her art and other pieces by the Thornhill Village Artists group will be featured in a fall art show at Arnold House from Oct. 29-31.

"People say I'm brave with colour," admits the 37-year-old resident of Yonge Street and Steeles Avenue. "I'm still a young artist at a stage where realism is important in some things, but not everything. I'll paint a tree to look like a tree, but I won't do this with colour."

Although trees, landscapes and still life are themes in some of her art work, the Israeli artist says she prefers to focus her attentions on people.

And for this task, she chooses to rely on a spectrum of faces as varied as her choice of colour.

In the past, Power has done paintings of Bermuda market vendors, natives of Nepal and even desert dwellers in Israel using a mix of live models and recent travel photos. National Geographic magazines have also inspired the artist, who flips through pages looking for interesting faces. Always with an eye for vibrant colour.

"I like very bold, almost primitive colours," says Power of her collection of oils and acrylics. "I just go with the paint and attack the canvass. I only regret that I can't prepare more ahead of time."

At times the zealous artist says she realizes part-way through a painting that she wants her subject to be standing, but will only have room for the head. This enthusiasm has resulted in several abandoned sketches in her basement and the homes of neighbours and friends who wanted her work regardless.

After being with the TVA the last three years, Power, a graduate of George Brown and a graphic artist by profession, says she finds new creativity working with her peers.

"My work is always changing and growing over time," she says. "Sitting with the other artists at work is wonderful, they're a beautiful group. I find it very inspiring."

—Dawn Tam