



▲ Jessica Gorlicky's work will be featured at two April exhibits

Pair of April shows keeping painter busy

by David Fleischer

She has only been painting for a relatively short time, but, working out of her Thornhill home, Jessica Gorlicky has been increasingly burrowing into the GTA's vibrant arts scene.

"It was about five years ago that I stumbled upon it," admits Gorlicky.

It took about a year and a half, she says, before she let other people see what she had been creating. Since then, however, her works have constantly been on display at galleries in Toronto as well as at hip restaurants like Fez Batik, Gypsy Co-Op and on the College Street strip.

"The ball really started rolling when I sold my first painting," says Gorlicky, who estimates she has now sold around 50.

On April 2, she will join a group of nine young artists and 16 designers for a show at the former Irwin Toy Factory on King Street West.

She will follow that, on April 18, with an open house show at a house at 7 Charles Street, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Having always had a creative streak, she has honed her art with studies in Italy and by auditing studio classes at York University.

Gorlicky describes her brightly coloured works, often featuring abstracted female figures, as "very expressive of myself, my moods, who I would like to be."

When she is painting commissioned works, such as wall murals, Gorlicky is forced to do pre-visualizations, but she describes her

It is not uncommon for her to be working on multiple pieces at the same time, and sometimes, the only thing slowing her down is waiting for the paint to dry.

"When I have an idea, I know exactly where to go from there," says Gorlicky.

"You get into a groove; you get into a flow."

Despite the displays of her work constantly marching southward, Gorlicky's studio remains in the Bathurst Street Clark Avenue area bedroom she describes as "a mortal disaster."

Gorlicky is understandably excited about her busy April. She expects that the downtown show will feature a greater concentration of her bolder works.

"It's like a chicken-with-its-head-cut-off intensity; you get so hyped," she says of the process of picking the paintings and preparing for the show.

The Thornhill show will be a chance for her to display her entire collection in a more relaxed, neighbourhood environment.

In the meantime, she is constantly hard at work in her studio, painting away.

Gorlicky will also be donating two paintings to an upcoming silent auction fundraiser for breast cancer research.

She hasn't even been showing her work for four years, and "people say, 'you've come so far,' [but] I'm definitely my biggest critic," she says. "I'm not satisfied yet."

For information visit

116.451