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Self-promotion is an art also, local painter finds

(Posted Date: [Wednesday, December 29, 2004](#))

But Gorlicky's sensual portraits sell by word of mouth

By [Sandie Benitah](#)

Some might say it's blonde ambition but for one local fair-haired artist, painting is more of a lifestyle than work.

It's been five years since Jessica Gorlicky, a 24-year-old North York native, started to paint professionally. In that time, she has sold over 200 paintings and has permanent galleries at several hip downtown locations.

"I'm my own biggest promoter," she said, explaining that she's constantly on the scene, introducing herself and her work to all kinds of people all over the city.

These days, she doesn't have to do much self-promotion. Every few days she has people calling her, telling her they've seen her stuff and want to know where they can get a piece of what she calls her inner "funk and soul."

Word of mouth and her exceptional people skills have landed her permanent gigs at city hot spots such as the Mini car dealership on King St., LifeMates head office, the One Up bar and lounge on Bay St., several restaurants in Little Italy and a few exclusive shops on Yorkville Ave.

Being on the scene is nothing new for Gorlicky, who has been a fixture in the club and lounge circuit since she was a teen. Artistic from a young age, she's always drawn inspiration from good music, interesting characters and life in general.

"It's all the simple things," she said. "I'm not bored anymore. I look around and notice all the little things — nature, people, love — everything!"

Her artwork also depicts a love of women and their raw sensuality, as she often paints abstract female silhouettes in alluring poses.

"It's very animalistic, the attraction to the opposite sex," she said. "I'm just



JESSICA FRONT AND BACK? North York artist Jessica Gorlicky shows a recent portrait that bears a resemblance to herself.

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No, we need the parking space.

No, every area should be able to decide for itself.

Yes, front-yard parking is bad for the neighbourhood's appearance.

Yes, we need to keep green space for environmental reasons.

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painting what people have seen, what they are or were once, or what they want to be.”

Leaning against her freshly painted gold-coloured walls are two of her recent pieces, one a grid done in a mish-mash of colours, the other a woman with her back turned in front of what looks like a waterfall. The figure is so in tune with the waterfall that it seems to be running through her.

“My pieces are a lot more than just eye-candy,” she said. “I don’t want people to see just a sexy girl and bright colours. I want people to look into (the character’s) eyes and see her expression. I want them to ask, ‘Who is she?’ and ‘How does she feel?’”

Despite the sexy images, Gorlicky insists that her paintings empower women. She often chooses to paint her subjects by themselves, caught in a moment of utter contentment, with a splash of wildly bright colours in the background, aptly titling them "Love Your Aura" and "Enigma in Us."

Gorlicky’s paintings seem to be a reflection of herself. Scattered around her bedroom are pictures of her and her friends and boyfriend in places she’s visited around the world. As she bounced across the room with her long blonde hair and baby-blue scarf flying to keep up, she talked a mile-a-minute about her absolute passion for what she does.

“In my life, I’m true and I’m real. I do exactly what feels right and I live for the moment. I’m like that with my life, with my subjects, with my colours — it’s who I am.”



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