

# Next-door artist shares her passion

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Staff

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**Ilze Flynn** doesn't like to be stereotyped as an "artiste".

The 59-year-old Homelands resident paints while juggling family commitments. She currently has her annual public library exhibit at the Clarkson-Lorne Park Library branch on Truscott Rd.

"I'm perfectly normal. I even do windows," said Flynn, who has 30 of her 300 works displayed. Most of the works deal with nature. There's even a wall of animals.

The down-to-earth mother of two adult sons, is a retired kindergarten teacher who taught herself to paint while recuperating from surgery in the 1980s.

Flynn, who eventually left teaching to pursue her art, works predominantly in watercolors, pastels, acrylics, pen and ink.

More recently, she has taken up teaching night school classes and a heart and stroke foundation therapy/instruction class.

Flynn's inspiration comes from magazine pictures, personal travels, or her garden.

"I guess you could say I'm an environmental painter," she admitted. "I like the ideas of Zen, quietness and the approach to nature, the small things. I like silence, I can't abide unnecessary noise."

She also loves Bruce Cockburn's

music and lyrics. "He's got something to say and he's getting on too, just like me."

The painter took up art on a friend's advice. Her first work - a daisy - landed in the fireplace. "It takes a lot of work. It's very time consuming," said Flynn.

Now her art is in her blood. "After a while it just becomes part of you," said the Latvia native, whose parents fled Soviet rule by moving to Germany, then Canada.

And Flynn is an artist who puts equal energy into naming each piece.

"Sometimes the titles are just as hard to do as the painting," she said.

Flynn has done numerous solo and group shows. In 1990, her pastel *Autumn Tapestry* received a Best Drawing Award in a juried art show and was purchased by The Mississauga Hospital.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY FLYNN ILZE

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Staff photo by Fred Loek

Ilze Flynn, 59, says she's an environmental artist who doesn't like to be stereotyped. There's a "wall of animals" at her exhibit at Clarkson-Lorne Park Library branch on Truscott Rd. The show runs to May 3.