

# A master art show

By ANGELA BLACKBURN  
Staff

Mississauga artist Franco Orlandi put the finishing touch to his school career last weekend opening his show, *Arabesque*, at the University of Waterloo Fine Arts Studio Gallery.

The show runs to May 2 and completes Orlandi's Master of Fine Arts degree.

Orlandi said his art is a form of personal examination, looking at the dichotomy presented by environmental issues versus industry objectives, or the life of an immigrant as opposed to the experiences of those who are born here.

His art style is baroque and the finished pieces are symbolic of his Italian heritage. The show includes about 20 prints and a half-dozen paintings.

Orlandi, 40, was born in Belgium. His parents had left their native Italy and were en route to Canada.

Today he still lives in the old neighborhood, near Dundas St. and Hwy. 10, where his family settled upon arriving in Mississauga.

Orlandi attended T.L. Kennedy Secondary School, where took up painting. He left school to work at jobs, mostly in the industrial mechanical field.

The artist within, however, convinced him to return to school.

By 1990, Orlandi had sailed through upgrading courses and night school to graduate from Erindale College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts and art history.

Orlandi credits retired T.L. Kennedy teachers John Whitaker and John Rakhola for encouraging his painting.

The artist also tips his hat to Erindale College instructors Carmelo Arnoldin and John Armstrong.

The Floradale Dr. resident traces his interest in nature to senior public school. Even while working in industry, Orlandi said, "I always dabbled in the creative."

Orlandi first tried his hand at acrylics and soon after began experimenting in oils. He hasn't strayed far since.

"I don't use brushes much, anymore," he said. He'll roll up his sleeves to use his hands and fingers, or squeeze the paint straight from the tube.

When it comes to his mono-prints, Orlandi has been known to use watercolors, and even crayons.

The colors he chooses are all vibrant.

"I love color, I love the interaction of color. I guess that's part of growing up in the 1960s," said Orlandi.

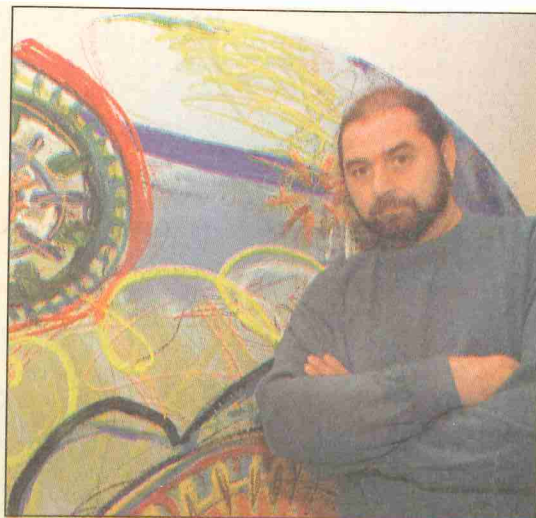
Orlandi no longer paints on traditional canvas, opting for masonite on plywood. He cites the controversy over child labor in the production of canvas.

"It's ethics," he said.

The title *Arabesque*, said Orlandi, "is from my love of the more lyrical. "A lot of my work is autobiographical."

Orlandi's works range in size, from 10-by-14 inches to the larger 36-by-30 inches.

The University of Waterloo art gallery is located at the East Campus Hall, at 263 Phillip St. in Waterloo.



Staff photo by Fred Loek

Student artist Franco Orlandi has opened an exhibit of his work at the University of Waterloo Fine Arts Studio Gallery which runs to May 2.