



Staff photos by Fred Look

Mississauga artist Huibert Sabelis at work in the upstairs studio of his Teeside Ct. home.

## Sabelis paints pretty picture

# Artist comes home to Mississauga

Paul Burg - Bk

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By MICHAEL LIGHTSTONE

A brand new suburban home sits in a dusty new Mississauga housing development, down the block from a new hospital yet to be completed. Dump trucks and graders slowly crawl by and there is a noticeable lack of grass and trees — hardly an environment for artistic inspiration.

Yet, the Teeside Ct. location suits internationally acclaimed Canadian artist Huibert Sabelis, who has returned to live and work in Mississauga after residing in Sydney, Australia, for the past three years.

"I chose to live in Mississauga because I like Mississauga. I've had quite a bit of support here," Sabelis stated.

Born in The Netherlands, Sabelis, 43, has lived in Indonesia, Canada, the United States, and Australia. He has travelled the globe and he has come full circle. Gone are the days when he had to subsist on rice and onions after arriving in Canada from The Netherlands in 1963. (He sold his first painting for \$10).

The artist's paintings now hang in major collections around the world including the Royal Ontario Museum, the National Library in Paris, France, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Science and Industry.

Sabelis works mainly with acrylic, and he described his style as "figurative, romantic fantasy," although he acknowledged some critics have flattered him with the description of his art as "Sabelisism."

"I work in my style. You have to get your style and let it mature and let it grow . . . because if your work doesn't grow, that's it. You might as well dig ditches," said Sabelis.

A sort of modern-day Renaissance man, Sabelis speaks six languages, and is apt to enter a discussion on history, philosophy,



Sabelis, 43, recently returned to Mississauga after working and exhibiting in Australia, Israel, and Europe.

religion, art, music, or politics. He has worked as paleontology technician for the Royal Ontario Museum, a rock 'n' roll guitarist (as a youth), a paint factory employee, and he is a trained chef.

He recently celebrated his 15th wedding anniversary with his Philippine-born wife Evangelina, and the couple have two sons, Ferdinand, 14, and Rembrandt, 10.

Since 1967, Sabelis has had major exhibitions at art galleries in Toronto, Monte-Carlo, Manila, Tokyo, Los Angeles, and Apeldoorn, The Netherlands. He is currently exhibiting in Holland, Australia, the United States, and Canada.

He indicated he prefers his work be presented in public galleries since he feels "art is for the people." He said the public is often wary of patronizing private galleries because they feel obligated to make a purchase.

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SABELIS, Huibert