

Sabelis looks back on 30 years

By SANDY MCLEAN
Special

Veteran Mississauga artist **Huibert Sabelis** is about to launch a book, *Sabelis Symphony*, a retrospective look at his unique work that encompasses more than three decades.

The pictures are courtesy of the artist, of course. The text is by Wim Van Der Beek, a prominent art critic from The Netherlands.

"After my successful exhibition in 1991 in Europe, the author and I came together and we thought it was time," Sabelis said.

Sabelis will officially launch the book next Tuesday, July 16 at the Neilson Park Creative Centre in Etobicoke, at 7 p.m.

On hand for the occasion will be The Netherlands Ambassador to Canada.

Meanwhile, 60 pieces of the artist's work, paintings that have been strongly influenced by his Indonesian and Dutch roots, will be exhibited at the Neilson Park gallery from July 16-29.

"It's mostly the best works I have from the different periods," Sabelis said.

Sabelis was born in The Netherlands, but grew up in Indonesia.

And, while it's obvious his geographic roots have played an influential role in his work, Canadian themes also appear.

"Your work is influenced by the country you're in," he said.

As a young man, Sabelis was a rock singer in his native country, but painting has always been his passion.

The title of his first book, *Sabelis Symphony*, brings together the artist's love for music and his art. It was written, he said, like a symphony. He also considers the rhythms and movements of his paintings to resemble a symphony.

His work, mainly figures in bold, striking colors, has an abstract quality to it.

"I aim to give people joy, happiness, a good feeling when they see my work," Sabelis said.

"And I seem to be successful."

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SOBELIS HUIBERT

A book from Sabelis

A world of art in three years

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His work, in India ink, pastel, acrylic and pencil, is in private, public and corporate collections around the globe, including The Netherlands, France, Sweden, The Philippines, Japan, Singapore, Israel, Mexico, Colombia, Australia, The United States and Canada. He's had solo and group exhibitions in about as many places.

"There is no other artist who paints like I do," Sabelis said.

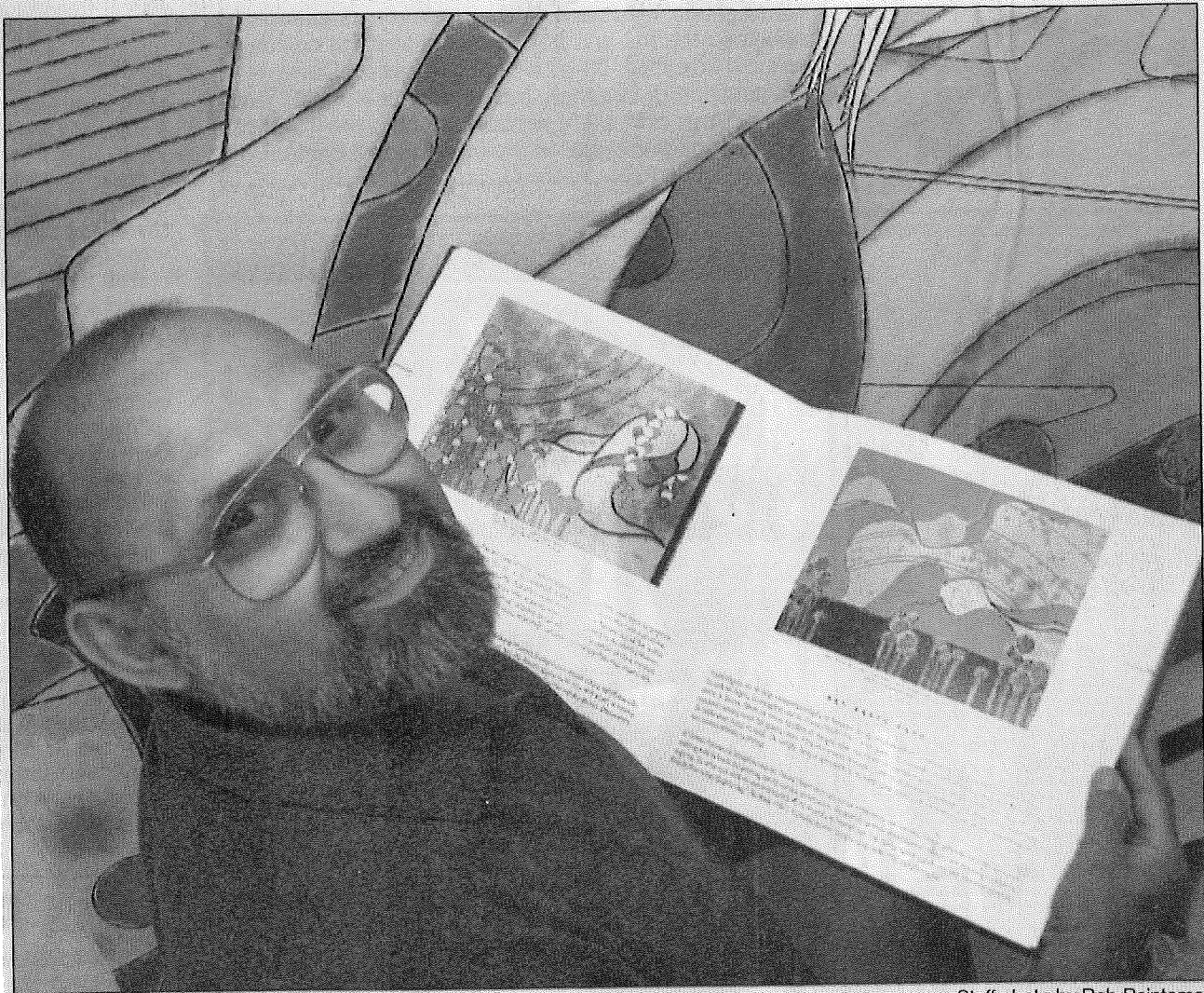
It took Sabelis three years to assem-

ble and produce the book. It was made possible by people and businesses who sponsored many of the pages.

"They are people who have been collecting my work," he said.

The cost of the book is \$1,000 and that price includes two original pieces of work by the artist, a serigraph and a pastel rendering of a tulip. There are 250 limited editions signed by the artist and author.

Sabelis Symphony can only be obtained from the artist. Call 567-7917.



Staff photo by Rob Beintema

Veteran Mississauga artist Huibert Sabelis is about to launch his book, *Sabelis Symphony*, a retrospective look at his work of the last three three decades. The text is by Wim Van Der Beek, a prominent art critic from The Netherlands. Sabelis will officially launch the book next Tuesday, July 16 at the Neilson Park Creative Centre in Etobicoke.