

# "Art by Eleni" is Art for All

On Wednesday, March 6th in the heart of downtown Toronto I was given the profound opportunity to travel to Florina, Greece via art that captured my mind, body and soul. Greek artist Eleni Helen Mallinos showed the world 'energy', 'power' and scenes of natural beauty via her art exhibit at the Gladstone Hotel.

Having sat and spoken with Eleni I was truly inspired by her work. As she mentioned the meaning of various paintings it came as no surprise to watch her light up. Eleni stated, "I used to play hide-and-seek in the poppy fields in Greece," while motioning to the beautiful acrylic of a seemingly never ending poppy field.

This exhibit was the second of two

that Eleni has done, and it is without hesitation or question that I embrace the notion that she won't stop there. When asked about art Eleni stated with a clear sense of confidence saying, "art speaks to me." As the words escaped her I took a look around and realized just how true the statement was. Eleni's art captures not only Greece but many places and types of energy that project positivity and sheer happiness.

Eleni's art has the complexity, capability and capacity to continue to enrich Toronto art scenes. If art is a form of expression that 'speaks to Eleni,' we are only too lucky that she translates this language into beauty that we are gracious enough to see, and thus understand.

