

## York artists' premiere

By SUSAN VANSTONE

Two Visual Arts students will present their first exhibit, featuring acrylic and oil paintings, from October 3 to 7 at the I.D.A. Gallery on the main floor of the Fine Arts building.

Eshrat Erfanian, a third-year student, has studied art since age 15, in Tehran. Illana Steele received a BFA from the University of Manitoba, and is in her Honours year at York. Erfanian's exhibit consists of six oil paintings on canvas, while Steele's will be grouped as a body of work accompanied by "words or notation."

Both artists work figuratively and are influenced by mythology. Each deals with different subjects and have different colour usage.

Erfanian is influenced by contemporary and Renaissance art, although not by one particular artist. Her Persian culture — especially literature, poetry, and music — surfaces in her paintings. Through reading, listening to music, and watching people, Erfanian creates an image on paper, eventually finalized on canvas. The focus of her exhibit is man as part of nature. Most are untitled pieces contrasting city and country settings. Contemporary man, in her work, is shown to be incomplete

because he has lost touch with nature.

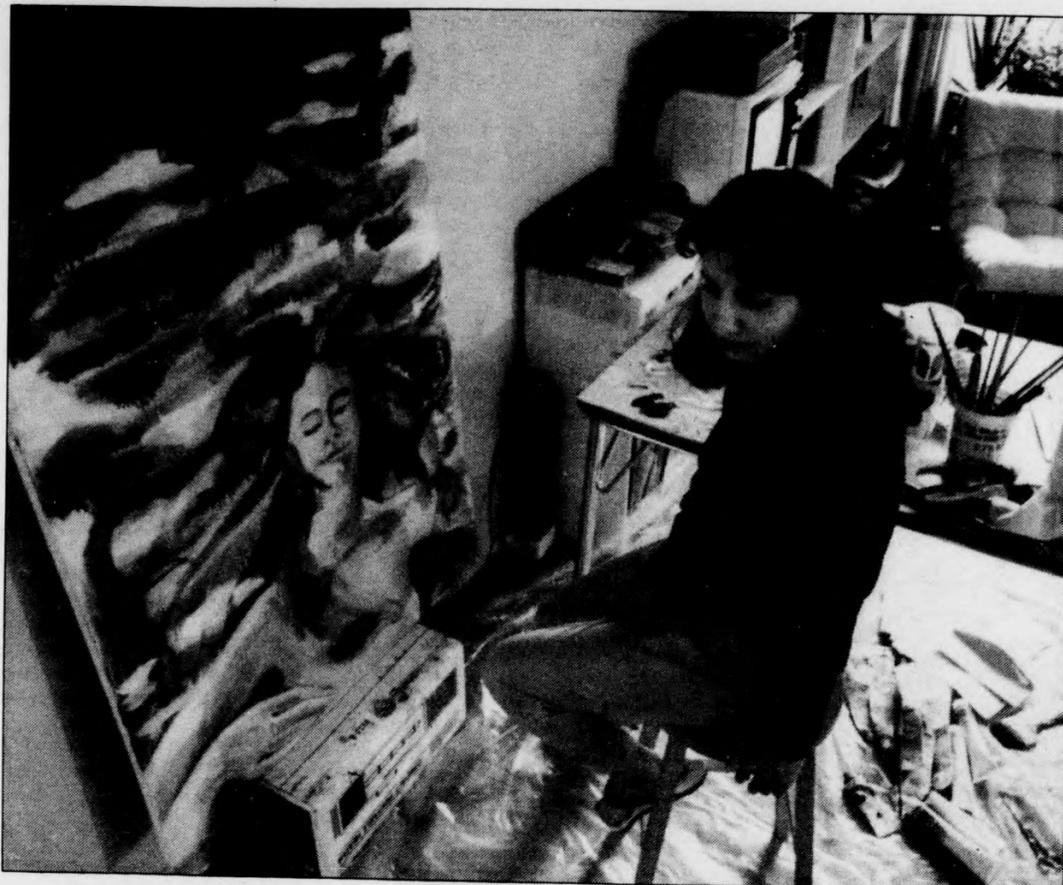
Steele keeps a journal of thoughts and dreams, from which a "body of images" expands into a painting. Her art is a narration of her discoveries. Central to this is the theme of identity — she paints masks to rework identity. Steele said her idea came from a compilation book, *Imagining American Women*, which states that a mask alludes to the spirit behind it.

Steele explained that people identify through the face — the outward presence — while the spirit — the inward presence — resides in the eyes. She added that when a mask is taken off, the inside is revealed.

Although the artists are "disappointed" and "furious" about the closing of the art store, both rave about York's "dynamic" art program.

The artists hope that viewers will relate to their work and be reminded of mythology. Erfanian sees communication as the point of exhibits, so she hopes her art will stimulate ideas about identity. "I'm throwing my soul at the public to see if they care," she said.

Opening night hours on October 3 run from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. The exhibit is open from 9:00 to 5:30 until October 7.



ANDRE SOURJOUON

YORK ARTIST, ESHRAT ERFANIAN: Displaying work that will be exhibited at I.D.A.

## Variety at Festival

By LORRAYNE C. ANTHONY

The ninth Annual International Festival of Authors will be held at Harbourfront from October 14 to 22. The festival features readings from over 45 authors from around the world.

Some of the authors featured include Nobel Prize winning American author, Saul Bellow and Guyanese writer Wilson Harris, who is rumoured to be a candidate for this year's Nobel Prize in literature. Also appearing will be poet and political correspondent from the UK, James Fenton; America's "enfant terrible," Kathy Acker; New York's hippest author, Jay McInerney; Booker Prize-winning Salman Rushdie; Finnish feminist, Marta Tikkänen; and the author of *White Hotel*, D.M. Thomas.

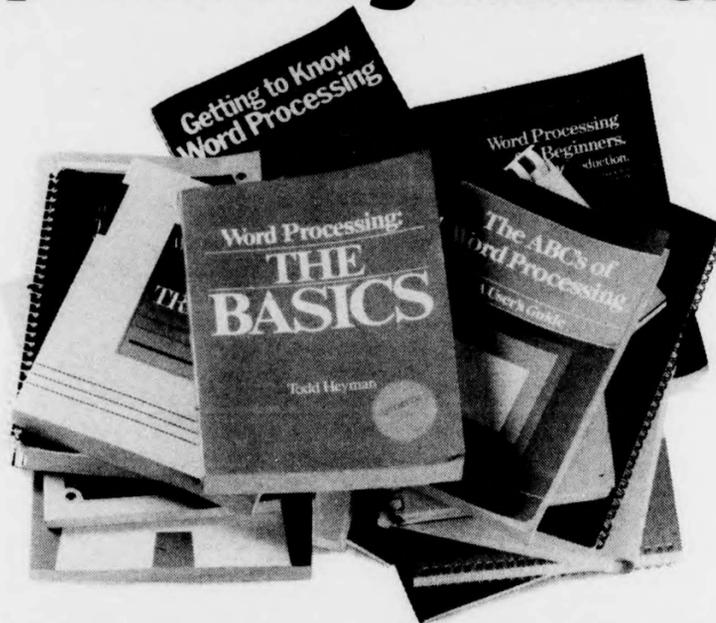
The Canadian contingent will be led by Margaret Atwood, launching her new novel, *Cat's Eye*. Other Canadians appearing at the festival will be Morley Callaghan, Neil Bissonath, Gilles Henault, and this year's winner of the Governor General's Award for fiction, M.T. Kelly.

For the first time in the history of the festival, there will be a tribute to a living Canadian author. This year Morley Callaghan is featured with a full day of lectures and onstage interviews. Barry Callaghan, poet and interviewer, will interview dad, Morley, for the first time. Others featured in the Morley Callaghan Tribute are Mordecai Richler, Bob Weaver and Graham Gibson.

To obtain more information on tickets and a full schedule of the readings, call the Harbourfront box office at 973-4000. Look in *Excalibur* for further coverage.

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this Festival  
slowly unfold

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