

# New dimension to painting

By Bonnie James

ECE Clarke is a born painter. The Turkish artist held six exhibitions, including five in her homeland Istanbul and one in Singapore, without having any formal art education. Later, when she decided to do a couple of art courses, the objective was to master new techniques, which would have taken her a long time if she were to learn on her own.

"I come from a family of painters," she told *Gulf Times* yesterday on the eve of her first exhibition in Qatar. The show, featuring 43 works done during her past one year in the country and supported by the Turkish embassy, is opening today at Al Dana Club, between 7pm and 9pm. It will run until March 9.

"My uncle was a professional painter and my mother, a stained glass artist," said Ece, who draws inspiration from nature and calligraphy. Wife of Andrew T Clarke, vice-president and general counsel of ExxonMobil, Qatar and mother of 14-year-old boy Ekin and six-year-old girl Clare Alev, she has been able to set apart a reasonable amount of her time for art, given her prolific creative output.

Ece, who studied sculpture at Lasalle College of Art, Singapore and painting at City and Guilds of London Art School, dabbles in several media, such as wax, acrylic, oil, gold leaves, pastels, crayons, cement and saw-dust. "I like to give dimensions to painting," she explained the reason behind her style of combining sculpture with painting, thereby imparting dimension and texture to the works.

Desert landscapes and mountains stand out in some of her pieces, giving ample testimony



Ece Clarke



One of Ece Clarke's works

for her passion for nature. Ece has even used desert sand in some of her works. "Qatar's deserts have been incredibly inspiring," she observed. Watching the dimensions of sand dunes change in the wind has

always fascinated her immensely.

The colours of Ece's creations are taken directly from nature, imparting a natural ambience. She has plans for another exhibition at Al Bida park.