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Maria Pezzano, 39, is an artist who's very sure of her motives and direction in art. First and foremost, she sees herself as an optimist who creates paintings with the express purpose of conveying a sense of joy and buoyancy. She's found that a combination of the primitivism seen in native work with that in children's art provides a spirit of the improbable that fulfills this aim. By frequently using the familiar themes of food, tables and dinnerware set in precarious positions, Pezzano creates unlikely scenarios that defy the laws of physics and present "the split second before chaos occurs." Another major device that imparts delight and cheerfulness in her paintings is her use of bright vibrant colours. Bold greens, blues, reds and yellows adorn her canvases, reinforcing this fundamental sense of whimsy. Yet Pezzano is not wedded to this one specific approach; after a decade of exploring it thoroughly, she's recently begun a series in which pattern — always in the background of her prior works — has moved into the foreground. Concepts and materials from the Middle East make up her current subject matter. Often called on for commissioned work, this Guelph native has most recently provided illustrations for Revlon Canada for their Arts and Medicine program — one "designed to offer tools to women survivors of cancer for healing through creativity." Many thanks to Dr. Jacqueline Nemni of Cambridge, Ontario, for her suggestion. **PE**



"Fish Dinner" 2002
Acrylic 182.9 × 121.9 cm
Canvas Gallery, Toronto
Maria Pezzano
Born Guelph, 1964
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