

TMR artist donates Raonic tennis painting to foundation



MARTIN C. BARRY

TMR artist Marina Gavanski has turned her talent as an accomplished portraitist into a specialty involving some of the world's leading tennis players.

After completing a portrait of Serbia's Novak Djokovic some years ago which she later presented to the current World No. 1, she recently painted Milos Raonic, Canada's best tennis player, who was this year's Wimbledon finalist. Raonic accepted the works for his charitable foundation.

"He was very kind to invite me as a special guest to Toronto," Gavanski said in an interview regarding an event held at Holland Bloorview, a Toronto rehab centre for children with special needs that is supported by Raonic.

"I first noticed Milos Raonic as a great Tennis player when he became Canada's no.1 around 2011-12," she added. "It was of interest to me twofold: because of his origins as a Canadian, which are similar to mine, and because I was witnessing the trajectory of a great champion.

"This inspired me to paint him in 2013. I was then inspired to paint him in 2015, with his trademark sleeve, showing his power, focus and movement. Since he is Canadian, I painted the Maple leaf glowing in the background, under his arm, right next to his body.

"When Milos and his parents saw the paintings, they really liked them," Gavanski continued. "I offered to donate them to the Raonic foundation and to Milos for good

luck, and they accepted and invited me to personally offer the paintings to Milos and to participate in the event for Holland Bloorview. There, Milos announced a pledge to help raise \$50,000 for the Sport Fit Recreation Center program for kids with Cerebral Palsy. He helped found the Kids Agility Clinic in 2013.

"When I presented the paintings to Milos, he was very happy and signed the paintings. He asked about the dates, and when I said that he seemed to be getting better with each new painting that I painted of him, he said I should paint another one. The paintings will be part of the Foundation, to be used for fundraising purposes. The children were waiting for him in the large well equipped Gymnasium. He talked to all the children and participated in activities with them, and even used an innovative machine which pairs video games with exercise."

Résumé:

L'artiste Monterois Marina Gavanski a récemment fait don de plusieurs tableaux qu'elle a exécuté du joueur de tennis Milos Raonic à une fondation charitable de Toronto.

Il y a quelques années, elle avait complété le portrait d'un autre grand joueur de tennis mondial, Novak Djokovic, à qui elle l'avait présenté. Cette fois c'était le tour de Milos Raonic qui a accepté le cadeau de la part de la fondation.

Photo: TMR artist Marina Gavanski and Canada No. 1 tennis player Milos Raonic with the action portraits she painted of him.