



NORTH PORT, ENGLEWOOD AND CHARLOTTE

Herald-Tribune

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010 | 75¢

AN EDITION OF THE SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE

HERALDTRIBUNE.COM

AN UNCOMPROMISING STANCE



Iszchan Nazarian, 65, has made a living selling abstract art for decades, though art sales through the recession have slowed. Ten years ago Nazarian relocated from Chicago to his home gallery and studio in North Port. **STAFF PHOTOS / E. SKYLAR LITHELAND**

PURSUING LIFE, NOT MONEY

North Port artist eschews the marketplace as his portfolio grows over the years

By **JOHN DAVIS**
john.davis@heraldtribune.com

NORTH PORT — Iszchan Nazarian's weekly routine is simple: maintain five rental houses, go fishing in Venice, and on nights when inspiration "overwhelms" him, add to the hundreds of paintings he has created, a life's work worth a self-appraised millions.

The Iranian-born Armenian immigrant Nazarian, 65, came to Florida 10 years ago with his wife, Elizabeth, and two daughters, settling in North Port with money from the sale of the family's Chicago travel agency. They invested in North Port real estate, still their main source of income.

Elizabeth, 68, spends her days trying to raise money for orphans in her native Poland, leaving

Iszchan to take care of the rental houses and pursue his life's work: art. The family's home near Warm Mineral Springs also serves as a studio and gallery, with large canvases piled in the garage, stacked against walls and hanging throughout the house.

Iszchan is not a retired hobbyist who came to Florida to paint palm trees and beach scenes. He has a master's degree in painting and tapestry-making from the Warsaw Academy of Art.

Before fleeing Communist Poland in 1983, Iszchan had a successful tapestry business. But now, focused on his art, he has contempt for art as an investment vehicle.

"Quite often, erudition plus some advertising create an illu-

See **ART** on 5B