

PASTEL PRINCESS

THERE'S NOTHING ANGST-Y ABOUT LEAH TINARI'S SUMPTUOUS, PASTEL-COLORED art. "My work is celebratory," she declares. "Most of the time it's just my friends posing and being silly, or maybe up to no good on a Friday night." Well, it seems like we're all primed for her type of party: Her first solo show is opening at the **Mixed Greens Gallery** in Manhattan's Chelsea district in March, and she'll have another show at Brooklyn's Fish Tank Gallery later this year.

Tinari, 26, grew up in the small town of Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, and studied painting at the Rhode Island School of Design. Since moving to New York City in 1998, she's created illustrations of bands like Supergrass and the Faint for *The New Yorker's* Goings On About Town section. These days, she's teaching a drawing and painting class at Parsons School of Design. "You learn a lot about yourself as an artist when you teach," she says. "It forces you to put into words how you see and the choices you make in a drawing."

When not painting or teaching, Tinari spends time in Williamsburg, going to clubs with friends or hanging with her rocker boyfriend, Marty Kirchoff of the indie band Teenanderthal. "I love living in this neighborhood," she says. "Everyone I know is a bike ride away." But her first love remains her art. "I paint people in my life who've influenced me," she explains. "But I hope others can relate to them like I do, that I evoke familiar feelings in them." **Mixed Greens Gallery**, 601 W. 26th St., 11th Fl., March 26–April 26. For more information visit www.mixedgreens.com. ★ BY HENRY FLESH

