



*J'ai vu*, oil, 30 x 36 in.

tastic interpretation of the great inner pleasure he derives from nature which he celebrates on canvas with passionate intensity nearing a state of intoxication produced by an overpowering sentiment of freedom.

Hence, Serge Brunoni's paintings are vibrant and sensitive to bringing dreams to life while being inspired with the poetry and song of nature through atmospheres and colours that follow the rhythms of the seasons. The artist's brushes are directly instrumental to the restoration of life's dreamlike images that awoken in us a longing to become participant in this uprising sentiment of paradisiacal nostalgia.

#### **A necessary passage to art**

Born in 1938 in Lagny-en-Barrois, in the Lorraine region of France, Brunoni lost his mother at the tender age of four and lived with his grand-parents till the age of fourteen when, seeking to prove

he was his own man, he leaves home and becomes a factory worker, at a time when the Second World War had just recently ended and the living conditions were extremely tough. Thus, with an intense desire to embark on his life adventure, he leaves behind all his drawings and all the Tarzan story books that had ensured his survival by stimulating his imagination, enabling his mind to travel to unknown lands and different realities.

Proceeding with the same appetite for life, free of any ties and wishing to set out on the discovery of foreign countries, we find him at twenty years of age having to make a choice as to where he will accomplish his military service and French Equatorial Africa appears to be evidently appropriate. "I have seen everything and lived through all that the jungle had to offer: intense heat, bugs, humidity, precarious shelters surrounded with wild animals' nocturnal activities. I was in heaven – in perfect harmony with nature

and its fauna, just like in Tarzan adventure books of my youth. I remained there after my military service was over and worked for a railroad company until work became scarce. That's when I returned to France where I experienced a great shock at being surrounded by cement, minuscule apartments, compartmentalization, unemployment, constant grey skies and an impression of being trapped and dependent on the goodwill of politicians to initiate change," declares the painter.

#### **Canada**

Having made the fortuitous acquaintance of a Canadian immigration recruiter, Brunoni then decides to come to this great land in North America which he knew through Sergent King's comic strips as a land of vast spaces, snow, untouched forests, frosted trees, its fauna and its mythically courageous trappers that had survived numerous forceful battles with