

Gabriel Bonmati

Visit to a studio

The paintings of Gabriel Bonmati :
seeking beauty

For the past 20 years, women have been the driving force in the paintings of Gabriel Bonmati. Seduction is the artist's language : he paints women the same way Ronsard described them.

The painter's unending quest for perfection has led him to tirelessly pursue the same aesthetic principles. His singular vision has given birth to hundreds of complex women, from a wide range of periods and places. Bonmati's work reflects the perennality of women, with a hint of the past. Beyond the beautiful, fair-skinned damsels lies a glimpse of a landscape, the fold of a shroud, a brief pause to catch one's breath before the gallant knight –often present but hardly ready to give battle – arrives. The serene damsel waits, the trace of smile playing across her face.



Bonmati invites us to experience this waiting. His women, always imperturbable but enigmatic, display an ethereal beauty. The viewer senses the painter's quest for perfection through these faces, an idealization of women and life during these remote epochs.

Bonmati arrived in Quebec in 1969, and has also lived in Africa and Europe, whose stories and cultures have enriched him. His paintings seem modern, and artfully combine the past and the present. The artist is a man of many cultures, a painter without boundaries; in his universe, the imagination draws on elements borrowed through-out time and history.

Each Bonmati painting has a title, the finishing touch. The viewer must search for the prose fragments at the back of a fold, or in the middle of fabrics, but they are always present. The painter does not borrow the short phrases, he invents them. No attempt is made to transmit a message. Instead, the painter invokes serenity.