

CANADIAN ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

ARABELLA



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above, *Ecouter Son Coeur*, acrylic, 24" x 36"
left, *Le Temps De Te Dire*, acrylic, 48" x 24"

Spontaneous Tales of Whimsy

written by Kylie Serebrin

'Effervescent,' 'visceral,' 'spontaneous,' 'vivacious' and 'whimsical' are just a few adjectives that spring to mind when viewing the inimitable paintings of Marc Galipeau. For the past 15 years, Marc has dedicated himself to developing a 'brand' all his own – an effort that has culminated in a truly distinctive style of exploring colours and shapes through landscapes, portraits and still-lives that infuses each of his canvases with life energy and the melody of laughter.

Born in 1967, Marc spent his childhood and adolescence in a small village in Montérégie, Quebec. Even then, Marc loved all the arts: painting, drawing, sculpture, writing, music and theatre. "In my heart and soul, I have always been an artist," he recalls. "My imagination and

creativity have never left the forefront of my mind, through all of my life's endeavours. Even during my university studies in Special Education, I used my artistic instincts for invention, colour, composition and movement to develop new teaching methods."

Wooing the Art World

At 28 years old, after 7 years of teaching grade school, Marc decided it was time to try his hand at painting professionally, so that he would have no regrets about holding back his unique artistic vision from the world. "With my paintings in hand, I nervously introduced myself to galleries in my region and to my great surprise and joy, many of them agreed to exhibit my work! That very first summer, I sold the vast majority of my collection. Encouraged by my newfound success,



left, La Demesure,
acrylic, 36" x 12"



right, Cinema, Cinema,
acrylic, 40" x 40"



above, *Simplement Mien*, acrylic, 30" x 30"
 right, *Intimite*, acrylic, 30" x 24"

I audaciously turned my attention to more influential galleries in Montreal and Quebec City," he remembers. Two important galleries accepted Marc's work on consignment, setting the wheels of his career as a professional painter swiftly into motion.

Over the next couple of years, Marc participated in many art shows and symposia throughout Quebec – in Baie-Comeau, l'Anse Saint-Jean, Quebec City, Montreal and Trois-Rivières – where he developed friendships with fellow contemporary artists. Alongside this group of colleagues, Marc

participated in several international art exhibitions at The Carousel du Louvre in Paris, as well as in Belgium, Nice and Limoges. Marc's adventures wooing Europe with his distinctively imaginative work lasted for 5 years, during which time galleries in Paris, Saint-Paul-de-Vence and Berre-les-Alpes proudly displayed his paintings.

Setting Down Roots

Upon returning home to Quebec, Marc's mission was clear: to become part of the Multi Art team in Saint-Lambert. "This dream did not come true





above, *A Votre Service*, acrylic, 24" x 30"
left, *Complicite*, acrylic, 24" x 24"

immediately," he recalls with a smile, "but after several attempts, Multi Art was seduced by my work and they agreed to show my paintings on a trial basis in order to judge the reaction of their clientele. The very date of my fortieth birthday, Multi Art finally gifted me a permanent position on its team! From that day forward, I have been represented by a dozen significant galleries across Canada!"

Now that Marc has set down roots with Multi Art, working in his studio has become a daily routine. "Perhaps it's a bit paradoxical, but my studio simultaneously represents to me familiarity, stability and constancy, as well as infinite vibrating energy and evolution," Marc notes. "It's very important for me to sustain the impression of momentum – that each new painting is a continuation of a larger creative force. I love to sit amongst my paintings and observe the development of my work over time. I notice previous mistakes and correct them. I weave tales and give life to the different characters I've created. Surrounded by all this artistic energy – the colour, movement, narrative and growth – I search for my strongest achievements and strive to surpass them."

The Painting Reveals Itself

Once Marc has harnessed this energy of progress and momentum, new inspiration arrives with a spontaneous and enigmatic flash. He allows his imagination to run wild and begins by painting whatever his creative impulses dictate. "I paint my canvas with the colours that inspire me at a particular moment. Then, I give those colours life by adding light and shadows and accentuating relief to determine the painting's movements," he describes. "This whole process happens very quickly, over the course of a couple of minutes, in part because I'm impatient and curious, but also because I like the very short-lived dripping effect I can achieve with acrylic paints. So long as I block in my colours and contour my shapes quickly, I have the advantage of creating many fascinating effects."

Next, a character (or group of characters) usually leaps out of the abstraction. "A face will appear, a hand or an article of clothing," Marc asserts. "From there, the situation of the figure within its context reveals the secrets hidden within the





previous page, *Ma Lumiere Interieure*, acrylic, 24" x 30"
 above, *Jouer Avec Le Temps, Jouer Avec Le Vent*, acrylic, 40" x 40"
 right, *Gagner Sur Tous Les Plans*, acrylic, 30" x 30"

paint. Suddenly, a dark star-filled sky will jump out at me, or a park bench or the silhouettes of an embracing couple. It might sound mysterious, perhaps even a bit crazy, but a voice inside of me guides me to the end of the painting."

According to Marc, the 'characters' that now customarily inhabit his paintings took him by surprise at first – a bit like uninvited houseguests! "These figures just started appearing spontaneously one day, and they've never left. In the beginning, I didn't even like them – they were far from being realistic enough for my taste. Over time, however, they grew on me and I've learned to welcome their company. In the beginning, they were greatly naïve, like children, but years of modification has served to deepen their meaning and individual identities. Today, getting to know each of my characters and revealing their unique personalities to the viewer has become the primary challenge of each painting," Marc explains. "The attributes I discover in my paintings allow me to understand them and flesh them out in my imaginary world – things like books, hats and wine glasses. Little by little, these objects build a dynamic story."

When he's not acquainting himself with the characters in his paintings, Marc relishes time spent relaxing at home with their real-life counterparts: his friends and family. "Modern life is filled with so many tasks and obligations, so when I have the rare treat of free time I like to spend it in my garden, by the pool, taking in the beauty of the world that surrounds me."

This, Marc explains, fills him with great joy, recharges his creative faculties and enriches his paintings – a promising prospect for all who delight in his work!

To see more of Marc Galipeau's work, contact Multi Art Ltd. at 450.466.8511 or info@multi-art.net, and visit www.multi-art.net for a list of galleries representing the artist in Canada.



MARC GALIPEAU



"Faites vos jeux"

36 X 36 inches

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