



The Little Ones/La petite marmaille, 24 x 30 in.

Lise Lacaille's paintings are bubbly manifestations of her own joy of living and positive mindset. Born in Saint-Hubert, Québec, never having strayed very far away from home, she one day boards a 41 feet sailboat and embarks on an adventure of a lifetime. In 2007, she decides to take up residence in Playa Hermosa, Costa Rica, with her better half, while still regularly returning to Québec. How could she resist this year-round pleasant climate, this undeniable exoticism, these vibrant colours, the magnificence of the country's fauna and flora? "It's like a tropical Eden," she explains. "I have a great balcony and the sea nearby; I can hear the sound of the breaking waves and see parrots fly by my window. How could I tire of it all?" This close contact with nature revitalizes her spirit, as she walks along the seashore or goes horseback riding.

With this change of venue her work has expectedly evolved. She paints

more freely. Her colours are warmer and compositions more complex; her brushstroke is sharper, her gesture livelier, more spontaneous. She works assiduously many hours each day, with constantly renewed pleasure.

While she refutes having developed a "recipe", Lise Lacaille remains true to herself, to her need to depict all the small joys of life, the moments of happiness, most often centered around this lady in red which has overtime become her signature figure. In each of her paintings the artist seeks to create a particular ambiance, in context with the specific activity her figures are engaged in. The absence of facial features makes it easier for the viewer to identify with the illustrated scene, to penetrate the atmosphere created by the subjects' body language, further accentuated by their disproportionate size. The whole scene is set up to ensure that the viewer senses its energy and savours the fleeting moment.

A couple is paying close attention to a waiter describing the day's menu, in a restaurant courtyard shaded by wisteria blossoms. In a few instants, they will be sitting at a table among other guests to share a good meal in this lovely setting, under the blue summer sky. The man's yellow jacket, the lady's bright red dress, the green foliage celebrate the warmth of the season and the cheerfulness of a beautiful day.

The three young men getting ready to partake in a most enjoyable Saturday evening on the town also form a picture of happiness. Behind them rise the towering city dwellings while the sky progressively darkens. They walk decidedly, full of anticipation, thinking about people they will meet or hope they will meet; it's still up in the air, but it's certain they will have a good time. Their brightly coloured jackets, blue, yellow and green, splash the foreground, underlining the already festive ambiance of this outing.

