

# Josée Lord

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## Rhythm and Spontaneity

**J**osée Lord is a beautiful woman with a direct and intense way of looking at you. The first time I went to see her, one of her pictures, a large work in warm living colours, was so compelling that I almost lost myself.

In talking to her you can sense that she doesn't really feel at home discussing herself, at the same time you can

also sense her underlying commitment to what she does. Lord has recently moved into a comfortable house in Trois-Rivières, the city she has lived in since her birth in 1964.

One of two children, she was fascinated by the arts at an early age. As a child she suffered from asthma which curtailed sports. Instead she developed a number of artistic hobbies which spar-

ked her creative bent. These fires were strengthened by educational television. She studied commercial drawing in school and took stained glass courses.

After high school she had a string of jobs, working in a factory, a garage and a bookstore, before finally coming home to roost in a store that sold artist's materials. Working with art supplies began to unblock her creative self. "I still

have some of the paper from that store. It has a certain smell that I love." Then Galerie Arts et Passions hired her to welcome clients and she began to paint more and more for herself and her friends. In 1998 she exhibited her works at an international meeting of the Kiwanis Clubs held in Trois-Rivières.

These events all encouraged her and she began to focus on ceramics, producing beautifully decorated plates which gave her an entrée to the art market. Her hand painted plates are now distributed through numerous boutiques across Canada, notably the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts and the Pointe a Callières Museum. In 1999, during a delivery to the Museum of Civilization, a friend encouraged her to take her paintings to the Galerie Royale in Québec City. Success followed as her acrylics were met with an enthusiasm that led other galleries to show her work. "I like to work with gallery owners who have confidence in me and believe in my potential."

Lord's success is built on the passion she brings to her brush. Her spirit captures texture and form, stores up the patterns on material and is affected particularly by the uneven nature of furniture mouldings. She has a great appreciation for hand made objects and things which are visually interesting.

She starts working by making a rough sketch on canvass and then lets her imagination run free. Freedom liberates Lord's emotions. Sometimes she knows what she is going to do before she does it, at others, the work takes on its own life and sometimes leads to uncommon

forms. Her interior scenes are marked by a singular style, radiant declensions of warm colours or bursting opaque yellows. The expressionistic colour treatment is heightened by the gestures of large brushwork. In this way her subjects, flowers and furniture shed beautiful colour vibrations, as if their creator had given them distinct personalities, all the better to decipher them.

The spontaneous character and often monumental aspect of her work is frequently relieved by touches of humour. "I don't hesitate to place a guitar hole in a violin or to make a napkin dance." Another characteristic of her work is the use of dry black pastel to make clear, contour relief in furniture. Her work hangs in private collections in Canada, Switzerland, Guadeloupe and the United States.

Through the Galerie Iris and Jean-Baptiste Bouchard the Charlevoix Casino now has one of her paintings. Of her work he says, "The diagonals and the curves animate expressive compositions with a warm atmosphere, as sparkling as the artist herself." As for gallery visitors, they appreciate her bold original forms, their joyousness and the strong sense of movement that characterizes her work.

Painting for Lord is a necessary liberation. "I want to paint all of my life." Lord's paintings will be available in Montréal at the Galerie Le Bourget during the spring of 2004. █

Lorraine D Dietrich



PAUSE, acrylic, 36 x 30 in.



MARGUERITE, acrylic, 30 x 24 in.



VIN ET VIOLON, acrylic, 30 x 24 in.



SANS TITRE, acrylic