

Sarah Fecteau, *Songe*, 36" x 24"



Sarah Fecteau, *Reflet de vie*, 40" x 20"



Painting Life in Full Colour Women Artists in Quebec **Part 2**

written by Debra Usher

What do beautiful women, dancing roosters, galloping horses and idyllic scenery have in common? Well, they all play a part in the paintings done by three gorgeous, interesting and uniquely talented French women who live in Quebec.

While each artist in the trio paints different imagery upon the canvas, they are all masterful at capturing a moment in time, where everything is perfect, joyous and full of life and light.



Sarah Fecteau

Sarah Fecteau is a vibrant young woman who paints realism with a romantic vision. The viewer gets lost in her work, as you are constantly finding new details and movements. At 15, she had her first exhibition in Granby, Quebec and was for awhile a bit of a "girl wonder." Largely self-taught, she didn't let early success stop her from further exploring and refining her craft.

Sarah's creative process takes place over several months. During the winter, ideas simmer and take form. When the good weather returns, she sets off with her camera and models; taking shots that she references later on to bring the magic to her paintings. She loves to capture women and children in that one perfect moment we can keep with us forever.

The energy and devotion required to achieve this level of technical performance hasn't been easy and calls for a huge time commitment. Sarah even puts her own personal life on hold, to enable her to keep painting until the vision appears on the canvas. As she weaves her story, she explores a place where "realism might visit," softening the edges of hard technical lines and causing the viewer to get caught in the dream.

Sarah finds it very interesting to see how different artists project their personality into their work and how each technique is exclusive to them. As for her own art, she is a perfectionist who is constantly developing her technique. She loves to work in her studio, a space that is both vast and bright. Each object in the room has been carefully selected and everything is harmonious and tranquil. "It's very important to me," Sarah says, "because this is where I spend most of my time, so it must allow me to stay focused and be in harmony with my surroundings and my subject." Music also plays a big role, lending ambiance and inspiration to her studio and helping to intensify her concentration.

Sarah starts each piece in pencil, sketching her subject with as much detail as possible. She then adds the colours, the lights and shadows, constantly refining all the details until the painting is finished. She has tried oils, but acrylics remain her favourite – she finds they add preciseness to her work and help maintain the realism of her subject matter.

Sarah Fecteau's paintings evoke a serene present tense; while the figures are exquisitely real, the mood is quiet and peaceful. Her subjects



Sarah Fecteau, *Dernier Regard*, 36" x 17"

are surrounded by lush foliage and gently moving water and appear to be languidly moving through the landscape. Her art is a contrast of hyperrealism with a perceived softness or blurring of the photographic lens. But it is her patience and perseverance that keeps each painting coming to life on the canvas.



Sarah Fecteau, A New Beginning, 30" x 40"



Sarah Fecteau, Nature, 40" x 20"



Marie-Andrée Leblond

Marie-Andrée Leblond lived most of her childhood by the Richelieu River. There she found herself fascinated by nature, animals and the people around her. From a very early age she tried to capture these images in her drawings and later started painting them.

When she was young, both her mother and her aunt were always very encouraging. Later on, she studied old masters by herself to learn the classical way of drawing and painting and then she ventured out to create what is definitely her own style.

Since 2000, Marie-Andrée has been painting full time and enjoying every moment of it. Her studio is an extension of who she is – her very own little bubble. There is always music playing and she is constantly surrounded by her animals and other things she loves. In the studio she is fully inspired and calm.

Marie-Andrée's paintings are all about the mood and the energy. How she feels has a huge impact on her work – looking at her paintings you can always tell what mood she was in at the time. Inspiration comes from the things around her and images that people send. Pictures of horses, postcards, souvenirs, books ... add lots of music and she is away.

When starting a painting, she first works with the background, sketching right on the canvas. She then applies acrylics using brush and knife and enhancing the colours with water-based ink. Her paintings evolve at a slow pace, giving freedom to her signature style without changing the integrity of the piece. Sometimes, figuring the structure of her subject leads to many little accidents that make up an idea in the end. Usually, the idea seems to appear as she starts to paint and she is constantly surprised at the result.

Marie-Andrée's favourite subjects encompass movement and you can sense the energy quivering just beneath the surface of the paint. She likes to portray strong, fluid images with human attributes; roosters, horses, even her flowers seem to have faces and arms as they sway in the wind. Despite the truly whimsical nature of some of her work, she also paints hauntingly beautiful women with sinewy movements and beautiful expressions. She is constantly striving to go further than the simple representation of any image. The technique, the light and the quality of the sketch determine the image that will appear on the canvas.

For Marie-Andrée Leblond painting is her life – it is her therapy, her hobby and the most wonderful job she could imagine. She spends most of the time in her studio and when not painting likes hanging out with friends, her dogs or just enjoying life. She is constantly improving her craft and never repeating the work of others. Her energy is contagious and you can understand when you talk to her, why the roosters are dancing and the horses wait to gallop down the road.



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *How Blue Can you Get*, 48" x 16"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Thunderbird*, 60" x 20"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Nieghbour, Nieghbour*, 60" x 20"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Lilly of the Valley*, 48" x 30"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Pandora*, 48" x 30"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Looking Out (For Eachother)*, 30" x 24"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Sound of Silence*, 40" x 30"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Synergie*, 24" x 36"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Synergie*, 24" x 36"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Un Belargument*, 28" x 22"



Marie-Andrée Leblond, *Boy of Summer*, 30" x 24"



Claude Tremblay, *J'ouvre Une Fenêtre*, 30" x 30"

Claude Tremblay

Claude Tremblay was born in Chicoutimi, in the Saguenay region of Quebec. Almost from birth this artist has been inspired to draw, and in her first artistic business debut she produced drawings for children's rooms. Later in life she began painting, and for many years took lessons from a master colourist. Finally at age 45, Claude Tremblay developed her own unique style which is showcased today in her enchanting artwork.

Claude loves to paint images from nature and designed her surroundings to meet specific needs. Her studio is filled with natural daylight and the walls are pale, helping her to focus on the individual painting she is creating. Also important is the large surface area, where she can work and keep all the materials she uses close at hand. When asked what is essential in her studio, Claude states, "I would have to say my sound system for listening to classical music. Bach really inspires

me. I also have a few landscapes, which make me daydream, hanging on my walls."

The trees decorating her outdoor view provide real-life inspiration, and Claude admits that living in the country is what keeps her producing beautiful landscape paintings. If she needs further inspiration, visiting art galleries and museums help to energize the creative vision. She doesn't care to take on commissions, feeling that special orders can sometimes limit an artist's vision and also add extra pressure that doesn't help with the creative process.

As she first starts to paint her blank white canvas, Claude usually doesn't have any idea about what it is going to be. She begins by drawing a quick sketch, just a few lines, and then starts the process of adding colour and mood. By working in thin layers and rubbing the paint brush, she achieves many variations on the colours. Finally, she starts work on the light



Claude Tremblay, *Honerable Mémoire*, 36" x 36"



Claude Tremblay, *Solitude*, 30" x 30"



Claude Tremblay, *Des Rêves Et Des Frissons*, 30" x 30"



Claude Tremblay, *Après L'Orange*, 48" x 36"



Claude Tremblay, *Profusion*, 30" x 30"

and that is what provides the luminescent quality to her paintings.

"I go according to my state of being," says Claude. "I work all areas of the canvas at the same time, as much the dark and the light colours, and very often it looks like an abstract painting. Then by adding the tree trunks it makes all the difference and my painting comes to life."

Claude mostly paints with oils, but acrylics are her favourite medium. From time to time she also enjoys using pastels to add variation to the landscape theme. "I love acrylics because of their fast drying time," she explains, "and even chalk can add some interesting qualities."

She is also impressed by the new and different techniques used in painting today and the materials used to create them. "You have to experiment with different mediums to find out which one is made for you and your temperament, but you don't have to spend a fortune on your

materials. But you do have to be disciplined when you are working on each painting, in order for it to be as perfect as you can make it."

When Claude needs a break from painting, and any other chance she gets, you will find her out walking in the fields with her dog. "I have land on the edge of a river and I love to just sit and watch it flow. It helps inspire me. When I try to capture what has inspired me that is when I create my best work."

At the moment Claude Tremblay is painting beautiful landscapes full of lush, velvety trees and rich-hued earth. There is a sense of great peace and beauty in her paintings and they take us to a scenic countryside where everyone would like to take a walk in the midst of red, yellow and sometimes even purple trees.

To view more of the work by these three talented artists, please visit www.multi-art.net or telephone 1.866.435.8511.

Claude Tremblay, Étendue Spacieuse, 30" x 36"



Claude Tremblay, Je Ne Suis Jamais Seule, 30" x 24"



Claude Tremblay, L'Envers Du Ciel, 36" x 40"



Claude Tremblay, Sans Titre, 36" x 48"

