

André BERTOUNESQUE

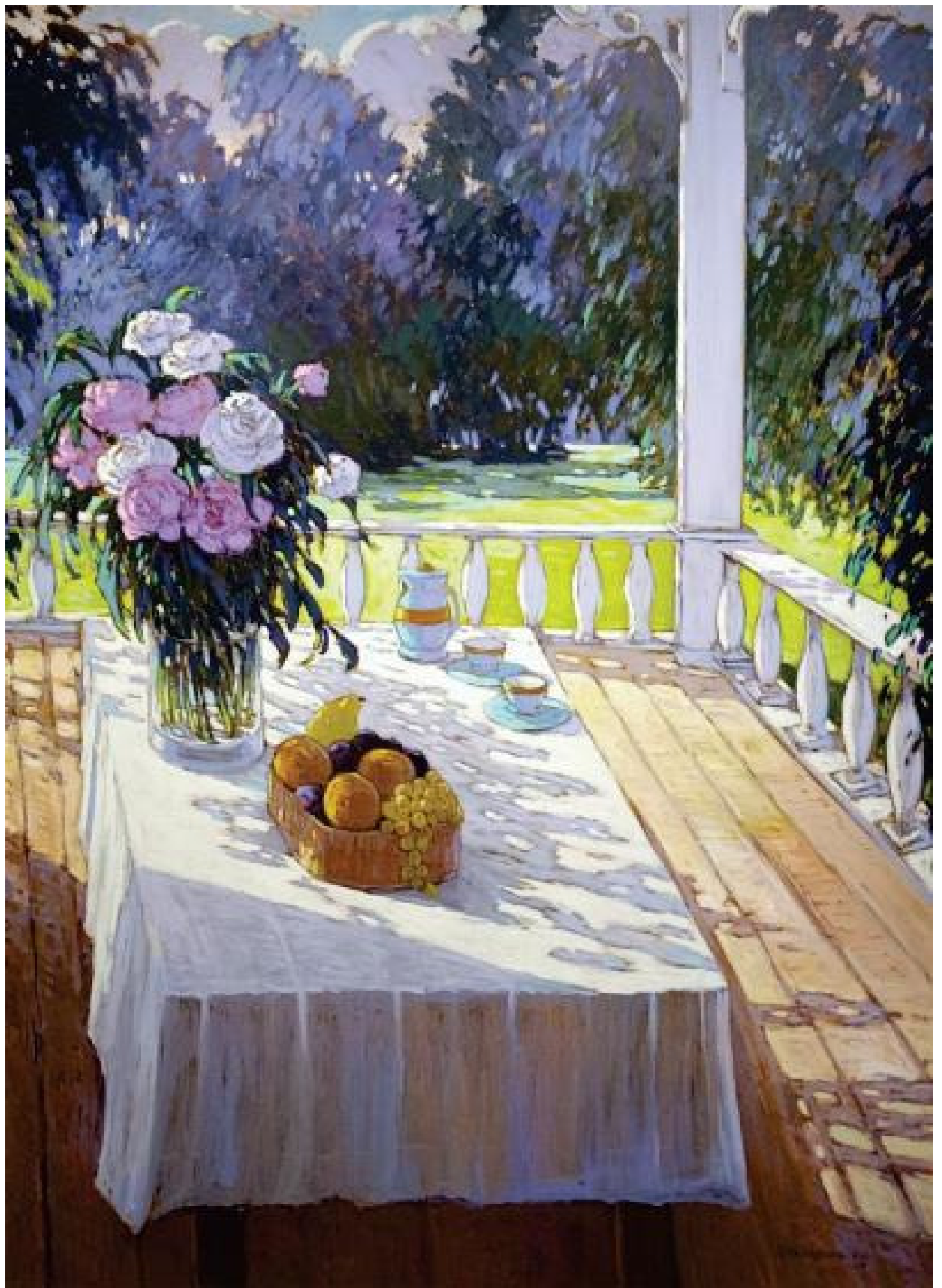
Prince of Light

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BERTOUNESQUE
I.A.F









André Bertounesque loved life in all its grandeur and beauty. To my family and myself, André was more than one of the many artists we represented; he was a full-fledged member of our clan. This is why I can testify to the fact that when he found a passion, he would get immersed in it completely.

In fact, you could say André Bertounesque was a man of passions. As much as he loved painting, he also loved collecting almost anything, from butterflies and insects to cacti, seashells and pasta.

For example his insect and butterfly collection was actually larger than that of the Montreal Insectarium, who inherited it on his passing. His dedication to entomology was such that a new species of beetle was named *Notosacantha bertounesquei* in his honor by his good friend Stéphane Le Tirant, curator at the Montreal Insectarium! It is worth noting however that he was far from being a fan of live bugs, arthropods and arachnids.

Many a time he was invited to join entomological expeditions abroad. Unfortunately, he was deathly afraid of flying so he never was able to participate in such a venture.





André also had another passion: woman. Not in a macho or possessive way but as a lover of the essence of woman. It is a passion; a love that is reflected in many of his works where he was able to express beauty and grace with a few strokes; a soft atmosphere and a reverence rarely matched by other artists.

Testament to his talent in showing the feminine mystique, a series of limited edition prints made in the 1970s made their way to beauty salons where many a woman of the time would find inspiration to express her own grace and beauty. He instinctively understood what beauty was and how to project it through his art. The curves, the way light would hit a beautiful face in just the right way, a fascination with flowing hair; he knew how to transcend the mundane and bring forward a goddess-like image that few artists can achieve.



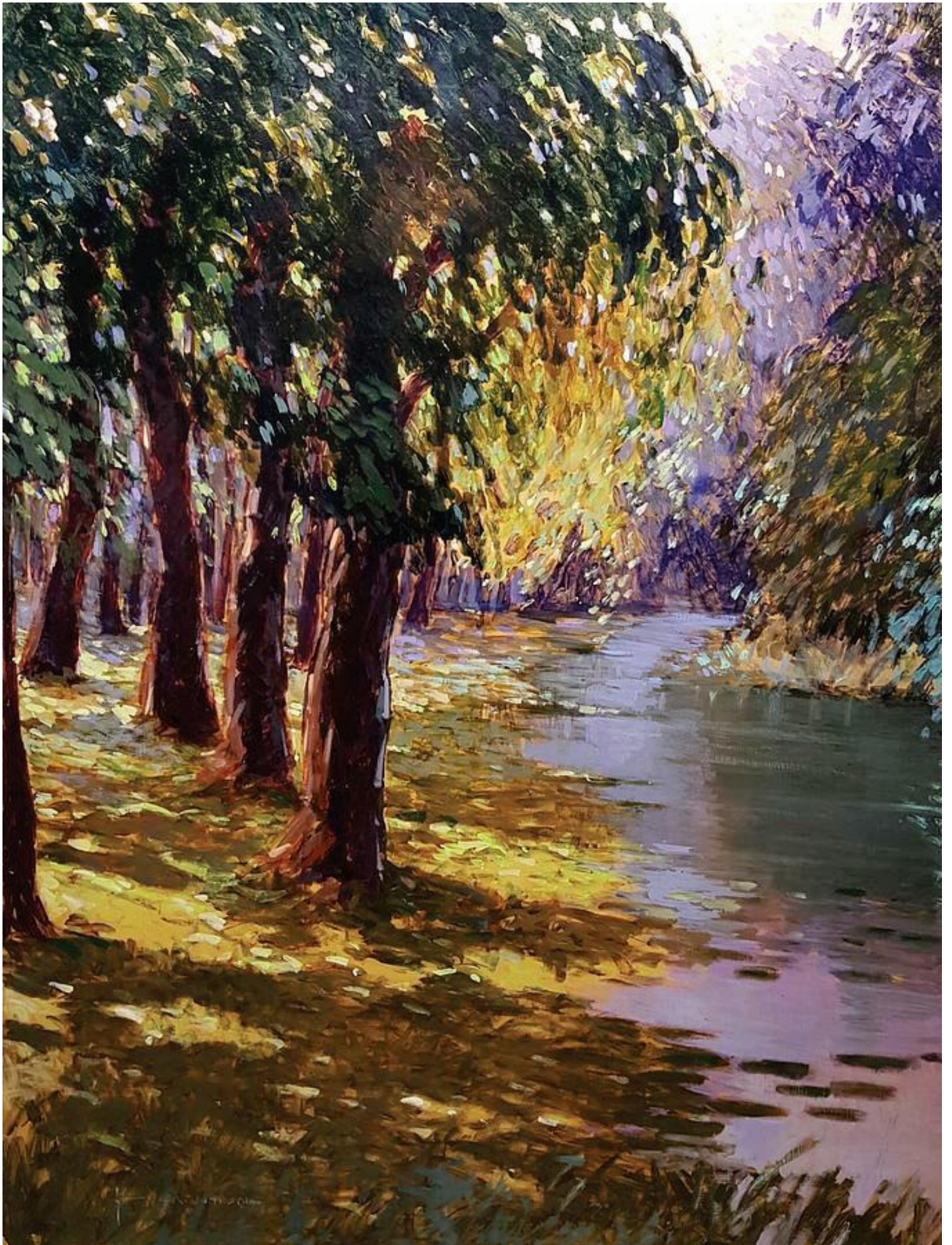


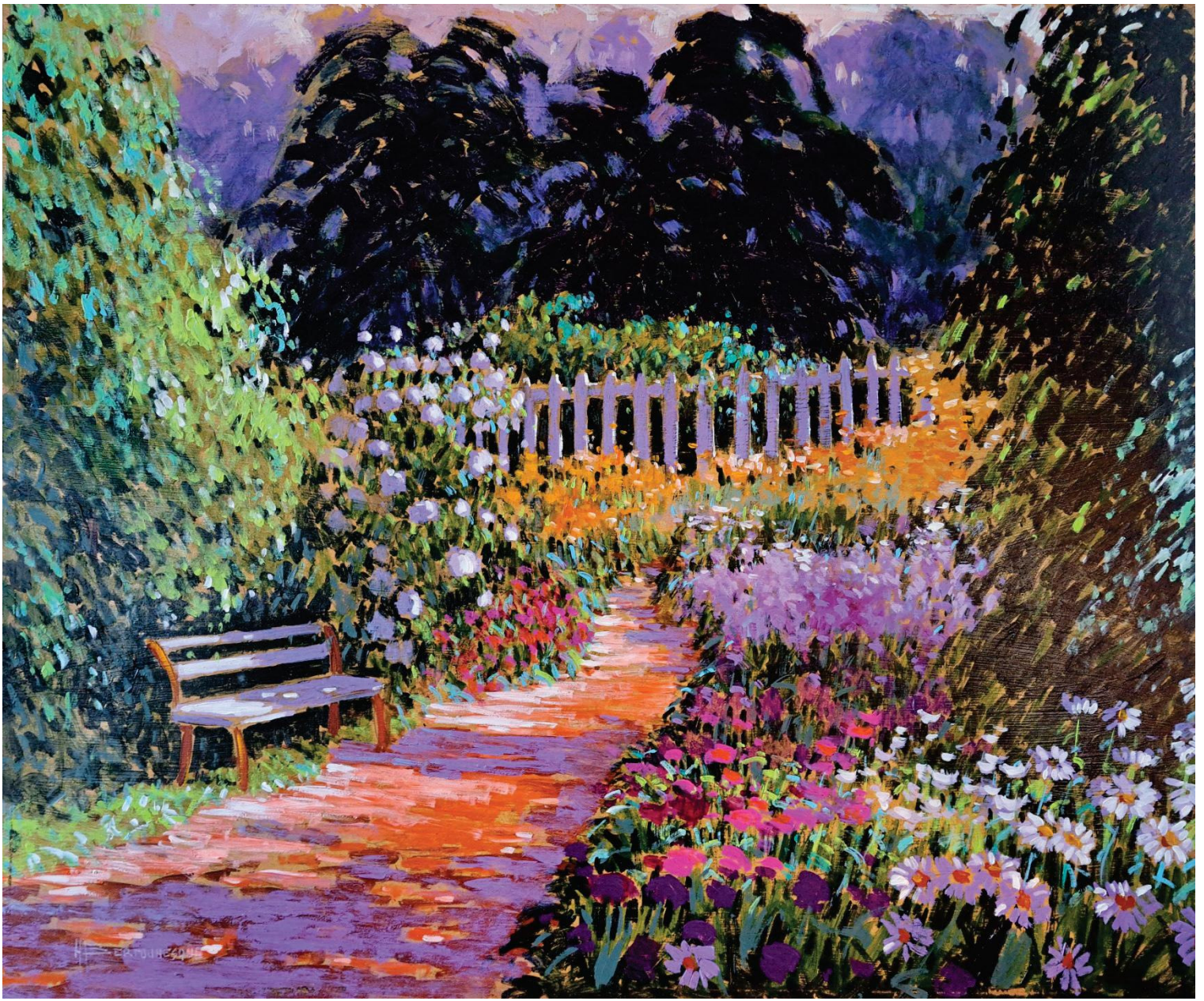
Bertoulesque started his artistic career in the late 1960s with a series of abstract works that have gathered great reviews by art critics and historians. His bold use of forms and colors, his innate sense of composition and a sensitivity for beauty and harmony show in those early pieces perhaps even more acutely than in later works by the sheer freshness and novelty of an artist discovering his muse and his very lifelong love of painting. One can sense the direction he would later take in the way he sometimes uses hints of figuration to accentuate what is essentially a pure plastic vision of painting.

However, he truly hit his stride in the 1970s when he started exploring the art of still life with simplicity and an efficiency that rivaled any of his contemporaries or of masters from the last 150 years. Simple apples on a windowsill, a couple of barrels on a beach, like haikus, the stories unfold with few elements but with complete clarity and light.

At the same time, the artist started exploring landscapes and seascapes – themes that would become his signature in later years. Some of his seascapes were directly inspired by his many family vacations in Sanibel, Florida but reflect an atmosphere that could have originated anywhere where water and sand are king.







This is where his legendary mastery of light would become obvious. Somewhat paradoxically he insisted in having complete darkness in his studio using artificial light only in deep contrast with his luminous work.

Memories and the peculiar light of his native Provence would become part of the poetry that was at the heart of this sensitive master. In fact, one could venture to say that light would end up becoming his main subject and that every other part of any of his paintings was an element serving to enhance

In the 1980s, André found success through Canada and abroad. Again, his depiction of women, casually strolling on beaches or having quiet tea in pastoral settings would create a universe all in tribute to his love of women.

He became a “personality” of sorts even appearing in boxing magazines alongside Muhamad Ali of whom he had painted a portrait.



ERTOCHESQUE















STOJNEV



This is the “Bertou” I remember growing up with. A man in love with life, somewhat eccentric as artists often are, but he was a warm and deeply human person. You could sense his deep commitment to his art but also to the many other facets of his complex life and to his friends.

The 1990s introduced flowers and, of course, his signature Provencal scenes. Sycamore trees that, by Napoleonic decree, border so many roads in France and once were a mark of nobility and luxury, whitewashed houses bathed in the resplendent light of the South of France and the flowers – the ultimate symbol of life and beauty. Nostalgia for his roots, perhaps, but imagination itself was a major inspiration for this accomplished artist.

Throughout his career, Bertounesque was able to reinvent himself many times while keeping intact the essence of what made him the artist he was.

A true romantic, by the time he left us in 2005, he had become a household name in Quebec and Canadian figurative art.

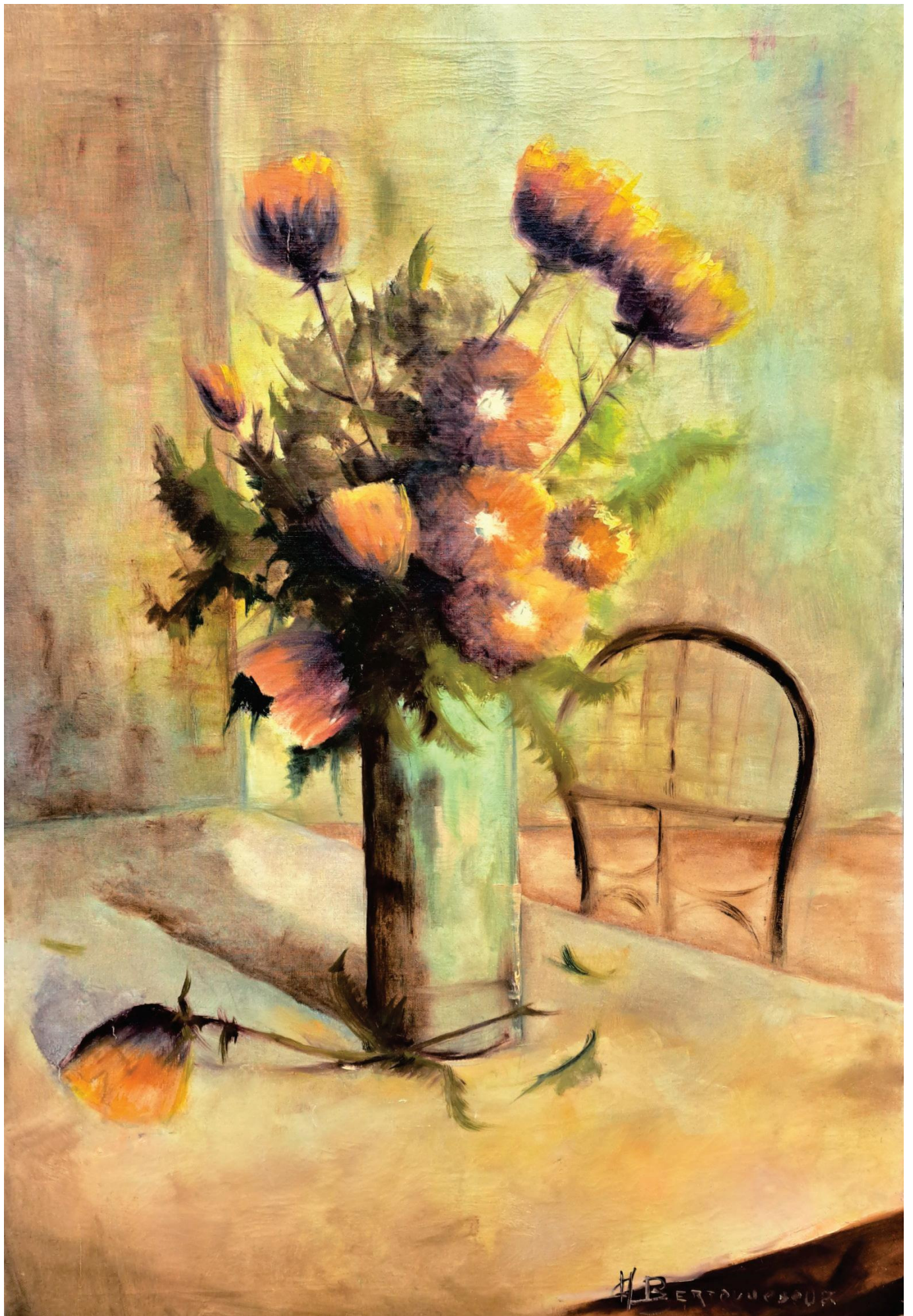


M. F. TOUNEY, QUIL



I still remember the day I received the fateful phone call telling me he had passed, suddenly, of a heart attack. I truly felt I had lost a part of my life; a bit of the spirit that made me want to spend my life surrounded by art and artists.

To this day, André's art has a major place within my soul and I am proud to keep his legacy and memory alive by sharing his work through documents like this one but, even more, by always featuring his work in the gallery that I run and that was the site of many of his great successes through the years.





As Gaston Roberge once wrote, André was truly one of the last romantics. And he was more than a painter – he was a poet - a man of great passions - women, collections and, above all, endless conversations.

His work is now part of major collections everywhere, but more important, it lives in the homes and hearts of his many admirers.

André Bertounesque – *most of his paintings can be found living in homes where they are greatly appreciated. You can still acquire works through le Balcon d'art by visiting “le Balcon d'art” in Saint Lambert, Quebec or by visiting balcondart.com.*

www.balcondart.com



André Bertounesque

LIST OF PAINTINGS AVAILABLE

Page 00		Picking Flowers	(1995)	30" x 24"
Page 00	Top,	la table blanche	(1989)	30" x 40"
Page 00	Bottom,	dimanche a la campagne		36" x 48"
Page 00	Top,	untitled	(1989)	20" x 30"
Page 00		apres la tempête	(2005)	40" x 30"
Page 00	Top,	la mer a perle entre les rocher	(2000)	30" x 40"
Page 00		les souvenirs		30" x 24"
Page 00	Top,	Si les fleurs n'existaient pas		24" x 30"
Page 00		Florida		60" x 48"
Page 00		ma retraite	(2005)	30" x 24"
Page 00		untitled	(2005)	16" x 12"
Page 00		maison de provence		16" x 12"
Page 00		Le chant de la fontaine		48" x 36"
Page 00		avec passion		40" x 30"
Page 00		par la cour arrière	(2000)	30" x 24"
Page 00		untitled		30" x 24"
Page 00		plein soliel		16" x 20"
Page 00		untitled	(1965)	48" x 36"
Page 00		untitled	(1980)	40" x 48"