



Dans le cadre des Fêtes du 75°

L'artiste Del Signore choisi "Personnalité de janvier"

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Born in 1938 in Sulmona in Italy, Littorio Del Signore is an internationally renowned artist who established himself in Quebec in 1978 and has been living in the City of LaSalle since 1980. His thirty-year career as a painter has led him to an impressive number of exhibits throughout the world. Del Signore has been awarded about thirty international prizes. Many of his paintings are part of private collections, both in Europe and America, as well as huge public collections.

Mr. Littorio Del Signore has been officially chosen as the "Personality of the month" for January 1987.

He began his study of painting with master Panfilo del Beato of Sulmona and then went on to study with J.P. Serralongue at Ecole d'Art d'Ancecy in France where he graduated with honours.

Littorio likes very much living in LaSalle with his wife Angela and their 22-year old daughter Sonia, so much so that he has decided to open an art gallery in our City which will be known as "Galerie Edouard Manet".

The gallery will be located at 7585 Edouard St. and will officially open its doors to the public on Sunday, March 22, 1987 at 2 PM.

This will be a dream come true for Del Signore. This is indeed a great accomplishment for him since many people advised him against opening a gallery in LaSalle. But it would take much more than that to discourage Littorio who truly believes in his project and in the fact that the population of LaSalle and the surrounding areas has a real interest in painting.

In order to realise his dream, he had to buy an old store and transform it entirely, at his expense.

His wife Angela will run the future gallery, with the help of Mr. Jules

Poirier. The gallery will exhibit paintings of more than thirty well known Canadian painters. A section will be reserved for future young painters. Littorio hopes to increase the public's awareness of the beauty of painting and of the fact that works of art can be valuable investment for collectors.

A brief biography

One fine morning during the grape harvest, on October 18, 1938, a son named Littorio was born to the Del Signore family, at Bagnatuzo, Italy. He was the seventh child of a family of nine: six boys and three girls. Bagnatuzo is a small community belonging to Sulmona, a town of thirty thousand inhabitants situated in the province of Aquila, in the heart of the mountainous Abruzzo region.

Littorio was seven years old when his father came home from the war. After years of living from hand to mouth in the absence of the head of the family, the mother and children hoped that the father's return would bring better times and that there would be more to eat. Papa Del Signore followed the example of most of the other men in the village: he agreed to collaborate with a landowner and promised to return, in return, he was to receive half the produce of the harvest. Of course, he was tricked but knew that complaining to the local authorities would only aggravate the situation. When the time came to settle up, many large bags of produce went to the "boss", while his "partner" received only the left-overs. On several occasions during his youth, Littorio had witnessed this calamitous farce and swore that he would avoid such degradation.

Before his tenth birthday, Littorio had already made a name for himself. A pupil at the local elementary school, he so astonished his teacher

with the accuracy and quality of his drawings that the latter, proud to have such a prodigy in his class, decided to regularly collect examples of his work to put together a kind of travelling exhibition in aid of the local schools.

At the age of twelve, Littorio decided to take up oil painting, but soon realized that to pay for his paints he would need money... Since his father was working himself to the bone to feed his family and could scarcely be counted on to help, the young man became a house-painter. With the money earned from this work he was able to buy himself a camera. On Sundays and holidays, he took souvenir photographs of the villagers. The printing and sales to customers were handled by the local photographer for whom Littorio worked. The former provided the film and Littorio received 20% of the operation.

With two years of oil painting behind him, Littorio, now aged 14, ventured, when on a visit to Sulmona, to knock at the door of the artist and painter Panfilo del Beato. The youth asked the master for his critical opinion of the pictures he had brought with him. The reply was encouraging: del Beato agreed to guide the steps of his young visitor, and under his direction, Littorio made rapid progress.

Dividing his time between studying and painting, Littorio, after faithfully following his teacher's lessons for five years, gathered enough courage at the age of nineteen to take part, in 1957, in a group exhibition held in the entrance hall of the theatre of Sulmona.

Just before his twenty-first birthday, when he would be obliged to do his compulsory military service, Littorio decided to leave the country. He loathed military life. To-

wards the end of the Second World War, German troops were firmly entrenched all over Italy, and the Abruzzo region where Littorio lived had not been spared.

With the firm intention of learning the art of painting and making a career as an artist, Littorio therefore chose France as his new home. On January 24, 1959, he arrived in Ancecy, in Haute-Savoie, and stayed with a friend of the family. He worked as a house-painter and the following autumn, he applied to enter the Ecole des Beaux-arts in Ancecy, where he worked with its director, J.-P. Serralongue.

He very quickly forgot the question of existence and the future to devote himself entirely to painting. Littorio worked six nights a week to perfect his art.

Del Signore's palette became brighter. His entry, "Essai d'abstraction", in the "XIV Grand prix international de peinture de Deauville", in 1963, won him the diploma of grand finalist. The following year, his work was exhibited in London, at the Stylwood Gallery. Still in 1963, in a competition at the Ancecy Ecole des Beaux-Arts, he won a first mention in the painting section.

During his annual summer holiday in Italy, Littorio met a girl called Angela Falcone. He married her at Rocca Casale on August 24, 1964. A house-painter by day, he became an artist and painter by night. On May 10, 1965, Angela gave birth to a baby girl whom her parents called Sonia. Later that year, Littorio entered a plant in Ancecy that made containers for beauty products as an

artist-decorator.

In 1969, Littorio decided to move back to Italy. The family settled in Chieti, and Littorio found employment as a decorator of china objects. In spite of his work, Littorio was nonetheless able to hold a solo exhibition of his work. At the national exhibition of Roccarosa, he was awarded the fourth prize and, at the Rivisondolo Grand Prix for painting, he was awarded a silver plaque and a trophy. Until his departure for Canada in 1978, Littorio Del Signore won a total of 26 prizes, including three in France.

His arrival in Canada

It was during his visit to Montreal for the Olympic Games in 1976 that Littorio realized that the great city on the banks of the St. Lawrence possessed, in addition to a group of talented painters, a cosmopolitan charm which he found hard to resist. He decides to emigrate to Canada. Just be-

fore his departure in 1978, he was awarded a certificate making him an honorary member of the Columbian Academy of Saint Louis, Missouri, in the United States. In December of that same year, the Del Signore family settled in Montreal. From this time onwards, his exhibitions would be held annually in Montreal as well as in other cities in Quebec and Western Canada.

Since 1980, Del Signore has lived on Perras Street in LaSalle. Not far from him is Angrignon Park, a paradise for the children of the neighbourhood. For a whole year, in 1980, winter and summer alike, Littorio Del Signore painted the children at their games. The following year, strolling through Montreal, he discovered the many back lanes which run behind its houses and buildings. In 1984, he took part in an exhibition, "Montreal seen by Painters", which pre-

sented works by leading Canadian artists at Montreal's city hall.

Success

Littorio Del Signore's success never stopped growing with many accomplishments to his name. Here are just a few:

- in 1985, he designed a record cover for the Vaudreuil-Soulanges Choir entitled "Au coeur du Québec";

- his paintings were chosen by such companies as Petro Canada and Comstar for Christmas cards;

- he issued two photographs for the children of the LaSalle-Kenner committee.

Paintings signed by Del Signore are presently exhibited in galleries across Canada, namely in Montreal, Saint Lambert, Québec, Lavaltrie, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Ottawa.

City of LaSalle can be proud to have Littorio Del Signore as its citizen.



Notre «Personnalité du Mois» de janvier, Littorio Del Signore, consulte le Messenger de LaSalle en compagnie de sa fille Sonia (22 ans) et de son épouse, Angela.

Our "Personality of the month" for January, Littorio Del Signore, consults the Messenger in company of his daughter Sonia (22 years) and his wife, Angela.



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