

**Jean-Guy Desrosiers**  
***The Sorcery of Painting***  
Paul Gladu

In Québec, as elsewhere, artists tend to form colonies or converge at least in populated areas e.g. Montreal, Québec, Rimouski, and Chicoutimi. These cities correspond generally to particularly picturesque and interesting regions, for example, the Laurentians, Charlevoix, Lac Saint-Jean, and the Gaspé.

Québec has been fortunate. The province does not lack painters who have described, interpreted, transformed or simply chose to live within her borders. Listing Québec's artists (Pellan, Lemieux, Légaré, Julien, etc.) opens up a whole chapter of not just Québec but also Canadian art history.

Art and art history are still alive and well and living in Québec, as Jean-guy Desrosiers proves. Born in Sorel, Desrosiers left early to live, paint and make a career in the provincial capital. He set up house and studio in Charlesbourg. Like many other Québec artists (Suzanne Bergeron, St-Gilles, Rémi Clark), Jean-Guy Desrosiers was inspired by the old town of Québec. The port, the cliffs, l'île d'Orléans, and all the historical treasure - a veritable trove of subjects.

Despite a slew of productions, Desrosiers succeeded in making his own mark and standing out. Some of his urban images obviously use Québec as an artistic starting point. Under the flick of his brush, the site is transfigured, idealized, metamorphosed. The constructions dance and sing as if moved by a holiday or, rather, an overly fertile imagination!

Desrosiers admits that he admires Cézanne. Pissarro and others from the impressionist period. In fact some affinity can be noted in his work. Yet he escapes the usual classifications. Whether Desrosiers stops in Charlevoix, Saint-laurent or Gaspé, each location will be seen through his own eyes.

His compositions are always carefully created. There is an obvious preference for warm colours. His drawing moves and shows precision even when the artist is exuberant. Desrosiers' scenes full of light which he reinforces sometimes with more intense bright patches. If we must compare Desrosiers, music might correspond best. Dance, (Petrouchka, the ballet) comes to mind. Desrosiers' works are rhythmic with harmonic projections. Yet this comparison is arbitrary, his art deserves to be regarded simply for what it is.

He calls himself self-taught. Well, perhaps he is but he belongs to that species of artists who live life with passion, e.g., Yehudi Menuhin, Rimbaud, Isadora Duncan, Pavarotti, and Maria Callas. These are enthusiastic, decided, ardent idealists who break away from the ranks and share their gift of imagination.

Jean-Guy Desrosiers attended the Technical School in Ottawa and the École des beaux-arts in Québec. He teaches art at Patro-Amadour in Québec. Desrosiers was actually an aviation photographer during WWII but soon moved into the arts. He is currently a member of the Charlesbourg Artistic Society and the International Arts Guild of Monte-Carlo!

Although not a landscape artist in the ordinary meaning of the word. Desrosiers and all those of his and the preceding generation have provided art lovers with a collection of incomparable paintings that celebrate the beauty of Québec's countryside and sites, whether "manmade" or natural.