

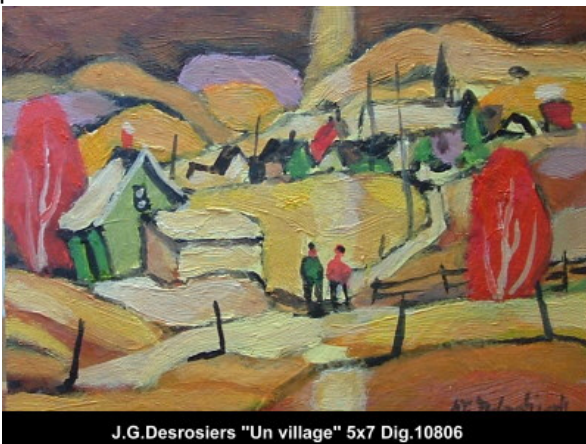
Jean-Guy Desrosiers

Modern romanticism

Baudelaire described the great French Romantic painter Eugene Delacroix as the last of the Renaissance painters and the first of the moderns. A great colourist, Delacroix believed in work over talent. Delacroix would raise his eyebrows whenever he heard anyone praising talent over the sheer stick-to-it-ness of hard work. Delacroix believed that natural talent, sheer innate genius, only serves to spark the artistic impulse.

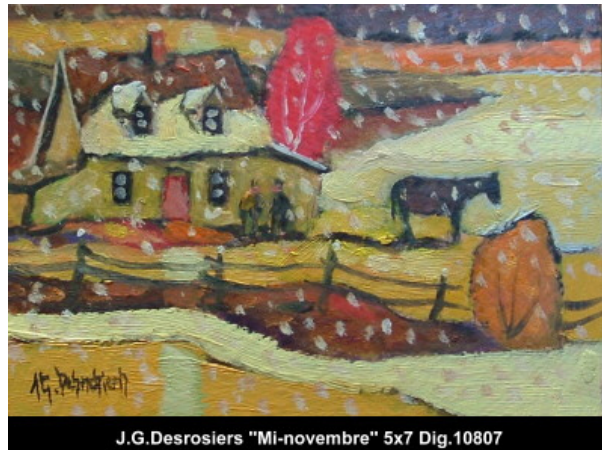
Jean-Guy Desrosiers believes in the same thing. For the artist the ability to work constantly is more important than any fleeting inspiration. It produces artistic dividends in the shape of a diversified body of work.

Desrosiers is also a disciple of Picasso in the sense that he agrees with the abstract master that if you know what you are going to do when you sit down at your easel you might as well stop and try doing something else. Desrosiers has never shied away from the unknown. His choice of form and subject has varied considerably during his career. This willingness to experiment can be seen clearly in his work hanging in galleries, in his catalogues and in his portfolio. However, there are two constants in his work. The first is a refusal to be trapped by any one theme. The second is his fidelity to an autumnal palette.



J.G.Desrosiers "Un village" 5x7 Dig.10806

His work is filled with a sense of nostalgia and music. As with his palette, the music you hear looking at his work is the autumnal sounds of violins, trumpets, flutes and mandolins. In the past Desrosiers used a blue palette, now his work is filled with earth tones where black and white are largely absent. Even his winter scenes seem to have a wash of earth tones over them. Desrosiers is a modern romantic painter, he is also a poet and musician deeply effected by the emotions called into being by the act of writing. We thought you would appreciate sharing with us the way he looks at his art and, above all, his life...



J.G.Desrosiers "Mi-novembre" 5x7 Dig.10807

His need to work is fed by a constant sense of inspiration. As Delacroix knew, work breeds work and inspiration breeds inspiration. Inspiration is fed by inspiration. In the past Desrosiers toyed with abstraction, now he works within the romantic metaphors of an idealized representation of man and nature. There is a strong attraction and affection for the Lower Town in Quebec City, as well as winter sports in the Charlevoix, harbor and sea scenes, and still lives.

DREAMS AND NEEDS

Across my drawings
Across my paintings
I want to discover
A way to better know
Life love and death
I want to learn how
To better speak
With myself
With others
With the sky
With clouds and storms
I want to touch rocks
Birch leaves
Feel the burning sun
The cold rain
The rose colored dawn
I want to fly
And follow the wind
Soar with the birds
Inhale the sweet scent of lilies
Lily of the Valley, lilacs
Firs and lime trees
I want to escape the speed
The madness of cities
The conform
Flee from noise
To better
In my mind
In my heart
In my soul
Listen, murmur
Answer the silence
To peacefully stop
Across my drawings
Across my paintings
As much as possible
I want to seize and embrace
All of the things
All of the marvels
That are
There for me
And surround me
And make life
Desperately short
I don't see
And don't feel
The damage
Caused by too little time

Jean-Guy Desrosiers

WHISES AND WHISPER

Give me
A companion
Three children
A mountain
An old barrel
Six sea gulls
Seven Swallows
Lend me
A fence
A curb
A field of wheat
The end of a ladder
Daisies
A blue boat
An easel
Moonlight
A dead tree
A bit of city
Great clouds
A forest
My old coat
Visit me for a moment
Stones
A mongrel dog
That drives me to
A solitary
Attic window
With a view of the river
And for you
In a drawing
I will dream
Of a pure world
A simple world
A beautiful world
An honest life
Abundance
Where
The right to love
The joy of living
The right to leave
Words of love
And holy peace
Reigns
Less than that
Give me
Quite simply
A companion
And let me
Dream my daydreams
By myself
In freedom

Jean-Guy Desrosiers

Like Goya, Desrosiers likes the “beauty of certain rustic things”, and it may be. This attraction he is trying to express through his current palette of orange, rust, and ochre. In some ways Desrosiers is a Renaissance man with larger than life appetites and a firm belief in living for the day. He understands that life ends in death and that

every fleeting moment has to be savoured. There is a great sensuality in his paintings and a passion that needs to be expressed which can only be answered by the joy of seizing a paint brush and bringing it full of colour to the canvas. The result is a certain synaesthesia which produces the impression of soft melodies and the velvet scent of flowers or the sensation of drinking a great wine.

Desrosiers never tires of contemplating infinity which in turn, he says, brings him the sea of colour he is currently using. His thirst for happiness can also produce a smiling nostalgia. Desrosiers plays the guitar and on Sundays, with his friends, he likes to perform in retirement homes. He believes he is under an obligation to live life to its fullest.

His recent solo show in Calgary was sold out. And at the moment, Desrosiers is enjoying a renewed interest in his work.