

138



« Horses/Les chevaux », acrylic, 24 x 48 in.



« Little Angel and the Bird/Petit ange et l'oiseau »
acrylic, 40 x 46 in.

the organizers that she might be better off choosing grander themes to paint. Once again she won the people's choice award.

The next step was gallery representation and she was lucky enough to meet the owners of the Balcon d'Art in St. Lambert. In doing so not only did a dream come true but she also established a good relationship on an artistic level with the gallery. "Each canvas I bring in amazes the gallery. I want people to be able to look at my work for hours and to still be able to discover new details," Fecteau says.

Her creative process gestates over several months at a time. During the winter her ideas simmer and take form. When the good weather returns she arms herself with her camera. Her models are placed in an exterior setting and dressed in costumes, accessories are organized and finally a swarm of children are assembled. They are then photographed and the prints are used as reference shots for the next series of paintings. Her aim isn't to painstakingly render living clichés but rather to provide a sense of magic, to make the viewer dream.

The energy and devotion required to achieve the level of technical performance that Fecteau has reached isn't easy and has called for many sacrifices. Putting her career first has meant that Fecteau has had to sacrifice her social and personal life for the last several years.

The only person she sees much of is another artist who works in the same style she does. Together they explore where their brand of realism might go, often using surprising materials, such as metal treated in the same way that