

dom of youth. Making people happy is in fact one of her artistic goals, and what better way to do it than through comedy? "My belief is that people need joy in their life to counterbalance the cynicism of our modern world," philosophically adds the painter. Certainly not a new discourse, but one that remains true! And confirmation comes from her success: in November, a sad and gloomy month, she sold the most paintings of all the artists in her gallery.

Last February 12<sup>th</sup>, Anouck Goulet held her first vernissage at the Balcon d'Art gallery in Saint-Lambert. The gallery owners had recently discovered her as an artist when she participated in the 'Salon des arts visuels' of Brossard where she won a 1st prize and was invited to exhibit her works in the prestigious location. Simultaneously excited and anxious at the idea of finally having an opportunity to meet her public, she happily was the recipient of quantity of smiles and positive comments, which further fuelled her creative drive.

Being a great admirer of painter Claude Théberge, she couldn't believe that her own paintings were displayed on walls next to his, when not so long ago she couldn't have ever imagined being able to live through her art. It goes without saying that in her small Gaspésie village of Saint-Alphonse, prospects for a professional artist were rather slight, in contrast with the vastness of the landscape. Like many others, she rather directed her studies towards presentation design before embarking on the path towards her ultimate destination. The realization of numerous theatre and cinema decors, during two and a half years, was an experience through which she was able to express her creativity. She will also create and sell hand-painted wood jewellery pieces during a four years period, but managing a small business becomes too consuming for her, and meant she had to set her passion for painting on the back burner.

Aside from her engaging and likeable batrachians, that she studies in depth so as to adequately depict their inherent characteristics, she also paints daisies – a little, a lot, passionately – maybe because they so easily lend themselves to a game filled with promise. Goulet's paintings illustrate



*The Monocle*, 16 x 8 in.