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## CLAUDE LANGEVIN I.F.A.

According to Claude Langevin, he had a wonderful childhood, quite unrestrained through not too causal. His father was a doctor – “... *he may have spoiled us a bit more at that time which... but my father always left me free and, even when we were young, didn't try to push us one way or another, he always left us very free. He did provide us with some luxury but we had to work to earn what we had...*” - As a child, Claude was boisterous, mischievous and whimsical. He pulled off quite a few stunts but never went beyond a limit he set himself so he incurred only rather mild punishment. At School?: - “*I wasn't the least bit studious, always day dreaming, no dumbbell but .. Well, I Usually trailed at the end, with the last five, of a class of thirty. When I wanted to work, I would be in the first five. I was forever being caught doing small sketches of what I could see from the window.*” - He has never been able to stand being along... “*I'm used to having a lot of people around me always so I can't cope... We were always fifteen, twenty. I'd get up in the morning and go wake everyone up. When we were young, I was the gang leader, the organizer... I liked to see things moving and still do to this very day... I like to be surrounded by people...*” His childhood was totally carefree. At twelve, he was boarder at Ste-Croix College. “*I was enthused at first... but I soon cooled off. I found it very hard, I missed my friends... it got me down. Freedom means a lot to me... at the college everything went according to a schedule, at such a time you had to do something, there was almost a schedule to go to the toilet... then there was Mass everything morning.. Now, that just isn't my piece of cake! Sports kept me from breaking down... I love sports... but I also kept on drawing... specially with charcoal. My work at school? Not bad, average, I'd say: I didn't like*

to study” – Claude Langevin has an auditory and specially a visual memory far above average which enabled him to work very little and to sail smoothly through his eight years at college but when he reached 6<sup>th</sup> form (Rhetoric) studies: *“they couldn’t take it any more, they kicked me out, actually, I was already out... my name was on the black list after my second year there. I was really too boisterous. When I would be warned that I would be expelled the coming weekend, I would say to myself that’s as bad it can get – so that last days of that week, I drove all my teachers crazy and thumbed my nose at all the rules: then, I don’t know how he did it but my father would manage each Friday to get me reinstated and the joke would be on me.. I had to “stay in” for so many hours that it would have taken more then my lifetime to do them all”* Claude was eighteen years old when he went to finish his two years in philosophy at the Collège des Eudistes de Rosemont, as a day student to his supreme satisfaction. He worked very hard and was among the first three in his class, just to show his parents that to work well he absolutely had to be free. He was devoured by the desire to paint but too his fathers advice and studied medicine at the University de Montreal. *“...There I challenged myself every day to reach a decision. Here I was in medicine, following my father’s footsteps and in my brothers also, but didn’t like it ... I just couldn’t see myself in an office... listening to patients describe their problems... I just couldn’t stand the thought. I wanted to paint.”* Finally, with the help of his uncle, a painter he managed to convince his father to let him quiet medicine and he went to work for a dealer who paid him thirty-five dollars a week to do some paintings. After a few years, painting night and day... *“Little by little, I began to sell my paintings in shopping malls, in small boutiques and, later, in art galleries. Today, well I’m in the better galleries and I’m still doing what I wanted to do. Today my brother tells me that I’m lucky to able to do what I want to do. Before, I was crazy... now...”* Claude Langevin hasn’t changed, he is still the

happy-go-lucky fellow he always been, always surrounded by people,  
but... he is working and still enjoying himself.

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