

Magazin'
Art

Winter 1996-1997

Jacques Poirier Communing with Nature



«WINTER'S LIGHT», 75 cm x 90 cm.

Landscape painting has grown incredibly in Québec over the past century. There were isolated examples in the nineteenth century and influences imported from France and England, but ever since the rise of the Group of Seven and the rich contribution of Clarence Gagnon, this genre has attracted legions of Québec artists.

Some fell into cliché settings while others developed a true, deep art form that expresses a sincere love of nature. Jacques Poirier, born in Saint-Roch-l'Achigan, belongs to the latter category of landscape artists. He has rendered the Laurentians, North Shore and Charlevoix regions in varied yet personal works.

What strikes anyone viewing a

Poirier painting for the first time is the extraordinary unity not only in each work but within his entire production. All the elements stem from the same tendency, seemingly linked by transitions and analogical curves, heading toward the same goal. Other qualities confirm this impression: the absence clashing colours or contrasts. In fact all tones are carefully shaded in general

to cover as much space as possible with a thirst for size that leads to admirable perspectives.

In winter scenes, Poirier achieves unity naturally through the everpresent snow. The artist finds snow a formidable ally while depicting something he could portray in any other season.

"I'm always looking for something," Jacques Poirier says. For this artist, nature is something that is moving, changing, and renewing itself. He captures visions in motion, like snapshots of rare images magically frozen in time.

Poirier has something increasingly rare in modern art: a sense of grandeur.

It is unfortunate that much modern artwork is narrow-minded, trivial or gratuitous. Where is the avant-garde? Where is tradition? Good question!

A former photographer, Jacques Poirier is a self-taught painter. He does not hail from any particular school, but that of 'hard knocks'. He has, however, retained the rigour and feel for composition acquired in photography. As a result there is nothing facile about his work. The viewer can image Poirier blocking out a tree, changing a field, reading a light meter, selecting the best angle – all to achieve that perfect image. The artist's sensitivity leads to scenes that are lovingly depicted.

Poirier's oil paintings are much appreciated by collectors. He has shown in all major Canadian cities and also in France. A lengthy bibliography attests to the interest this artist has generated.

Jacques Poirier knows how to interpret the scenery of Québec. His work provides faithful, invaluable visions that provide welcome relief from the stereotyped depictions of our countryside. █

Paul Gladu

Jacques Poirier's work is on permanent display at the following galleries: Le Balcon d'Art, rue Notre-Dame, Saint-Lambert; Michel Bigué, rue Principale, Saint-Sauveur; Le Chien d'Or, rue du Fort, Québec; Héritage Contemporaine, rue Grande-Allée, Québec; Iris, rue Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Baie-Saint-Paul; Koyman, rue Saint-Laurent, Ottawa; Kaspar, Prince-Arthur, Toronto; Kathleen Lavery, 124th Street, Edmonton; The Collector's Gallery, 17th Avenue, Calgary; Rendez-Vous, Howe Street, Vancouver; Whistler Village Gallery, Whistler Way, Whistler, C.B.