

Gaston Rebry

Born in Belgium where both French and Dutch influences are strong, Gaston Rebry was a champion cyclist before taking up art. He is still a sports fanatic. He studied at the Academy of fine arts in Minin and then made a trip to Québec to visit his sister. He decided to stay, working as a commercial traveller and studying at the École des Beaux-Arts de Montreal in his spare time. Eventually, he quit his job to paint full time.

Today Gaston Rebry paints landscapes, generally in oil. Landscape is an art form which is admired and criticised at the same time. It is not abstract, it requires no knowledge of human form, and it can be picturesque and anecdotal. Some people consider it the epitome of art, others an occupation for the so-called "Sunday" painter, or, worse just decorative.



Rebry's landscapes fall into the first category. They are distinctive in that each is unique, extraordinary and absolute. Nature can be hostile and harsh but Gaston Rebry is able to find just that familiar presence, a shape or series of colours, which make the work special. For Rebry, nature is a sort of religion. His works are not static, and neither is he. They have to move, he says and be "visual music". In fact, one of his works is entitled *Winter Symphony*.

Like many other artists, Jean-Marc Blier and René Gagnon among them Rebry is inspired by winter rather than being repelled by it. White, probably snow, is omnipresent in his works.

Today, Gaston Rebry lives in the Mauricie. He has exhibited all over Québec and, since a successful solo in Vancouver in 1984, all over Canada.