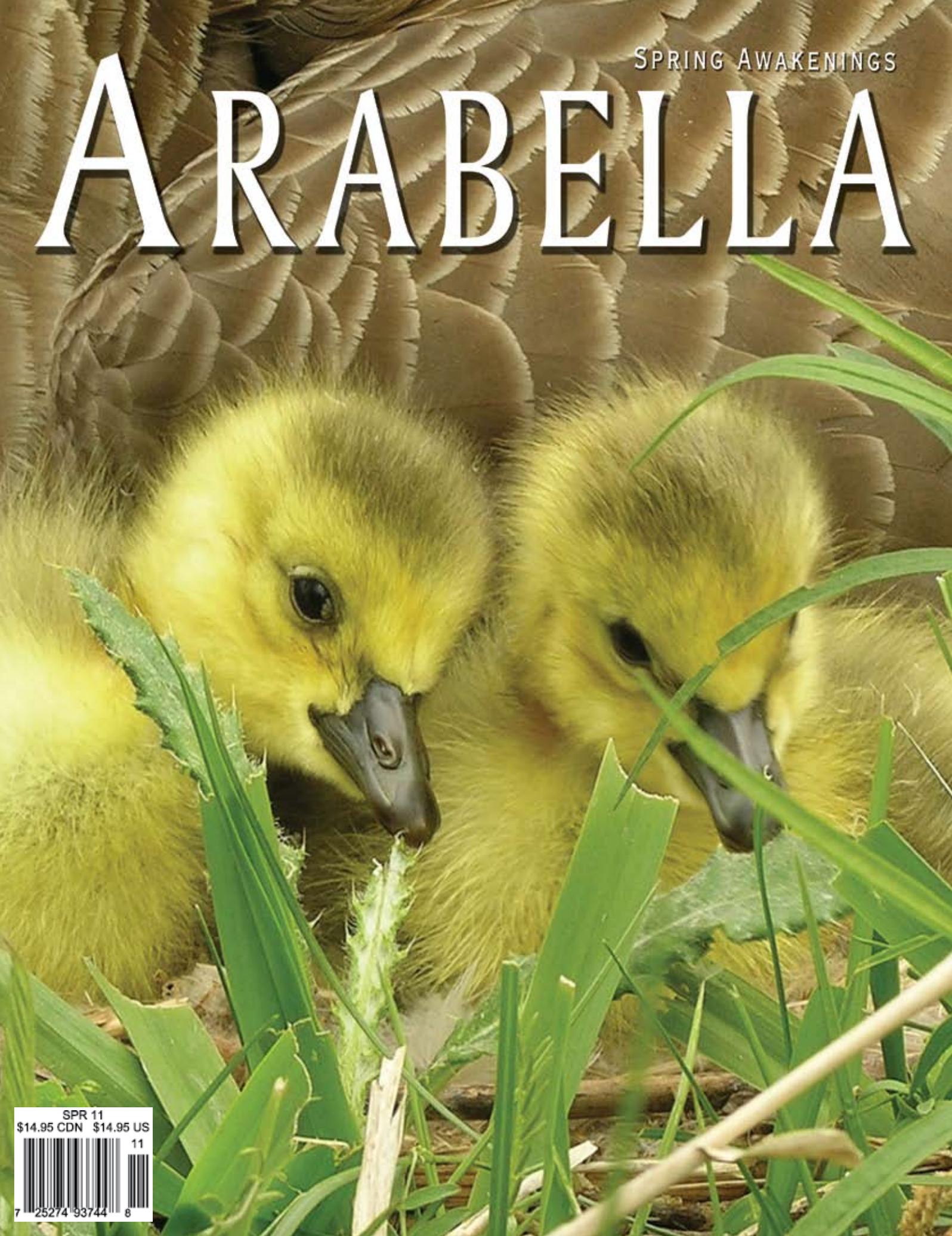


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Painting Life in Full Colour Women Artists in Quebec Part I

written by Debra Usher

This is the start of a story that could go on for a long time, women artists who live and paint, for the most part, in Quebec. Although some of the artists might seem alike because of their great use of light, movement and colour, they are all uniquely different and special.

In common is their love of painting, their zest for the world they see around them, creativity and a passion that brings to life the subjects that live on their canvases. Also in common is that they are women, some friends, and that they share a bond in the galleries they work with, their work itself and their enthusiasm.

They are different ages, sizes and shapes but it is their joy in the subjects they paint that unites them, and it is that joy which grabs your attention when you see their work.

Each of the artists in this story uses colour and energy to make their paintings come alive, and their almost youthful portrayal of the images catches your imagination. Although their technique and strokes are different, the magic they create is universal.

These are happy paintings – full of life, love and laughter.



Lise Labbé, *La Balle Perdue*, 20" x 24"

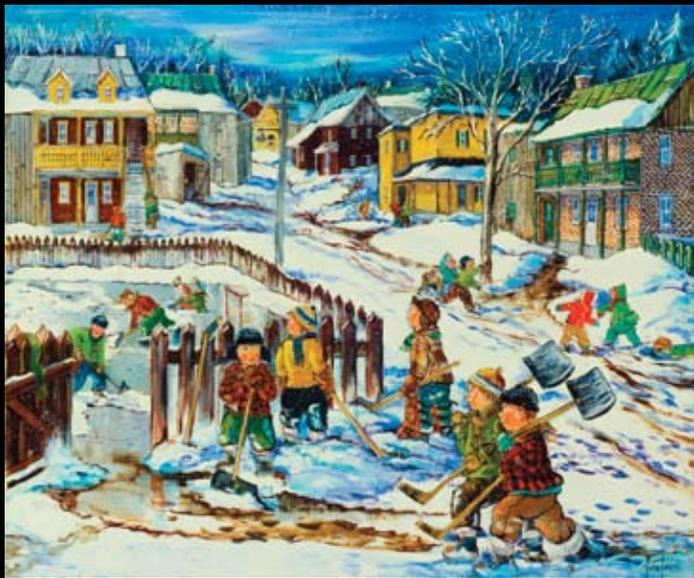


MAGASIN GENERAL

LA FARINE
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Lise Labbé, *L'Esprit D'Équipe*, 20" x 24"

Lise Labbé

Born in Montreal, Lise Labbé has always loved to draw, even when she was a little girl. She put her passion aside for 15 years, but when her son turned 5 and started school, she picked up where she had left off and started drawing again 'just for fun.' One day she painted his window blinds and before she knew it, instead of buying lipstick, she was buying paints. Lise Labbé was amazed that she had at last discovered her true passion.

Lise has her studio at home and the atmosphere there is magical. She lives near a river with several waterfalls and, when she is not working and creating, you can find her outside at the river's edge. "I love being outside with my dog and just enjoying life and nature," says Lise.

Her inspiration comes from watching and observing children and when you see her work, it becomes apparent that Lise Labbé only paints the world of children.

"Whether it is on TV, or in a park or even in books, everything about children inspires me," Lise states. "The fact is, I just love kids." In her paintings, children play in an almost idyllic world, laughing and playing outside, no matter the season.

Lise keeps the whole environment of her studio inspirational, with many books, children's clothing, an old pair of children's skates and other unique and different children's accessories that help inspire her paintings.

The characterization of people is something Lise loves to see in paintings. "Characters by Paul Tex Lecor and others inspire me," she says. "I love his scenes with people and all their details – he is one artist that still impresses me, even after

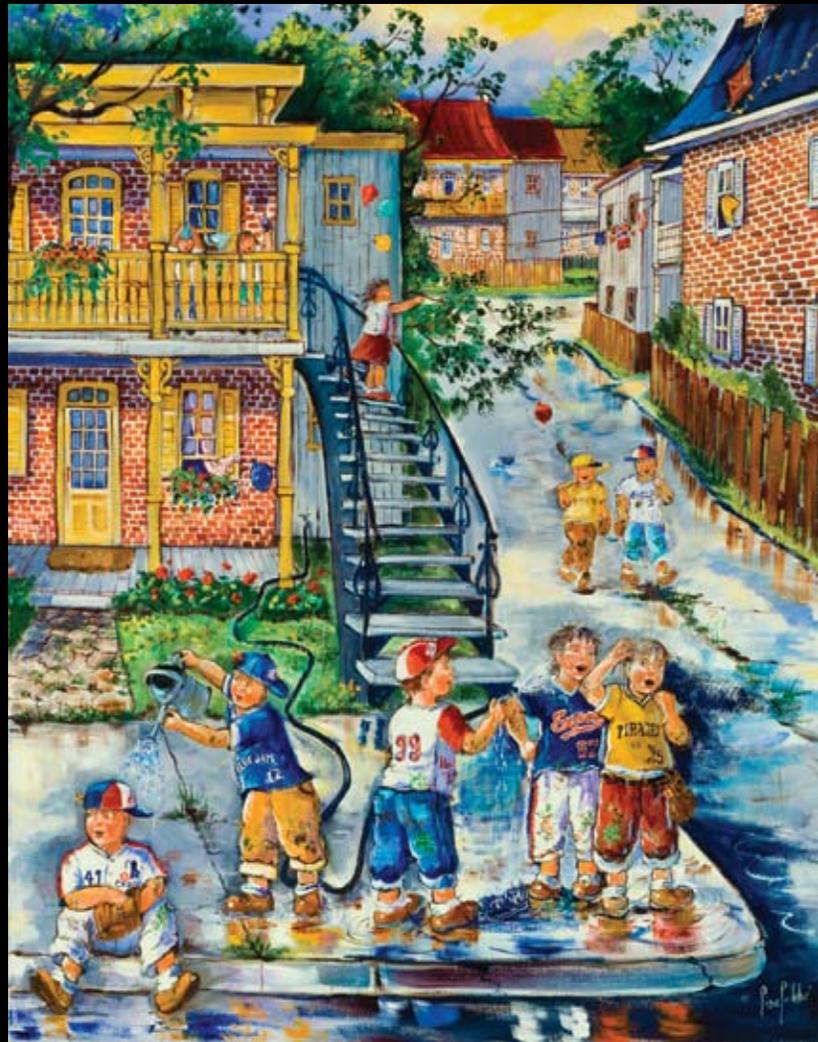
all these years."

Lise advises artists starting out to make sure they take some lessons from a professional to help develop self-confidence. Even after all these years of being a successful artist, Lise admits she is still very self-conscious.

The one thing that differentiates her from a lot of other artists is that she only enjoys painting children – they are having fun in her paintings and she in turn has fun with the creating.

Lise states, "I always start with a sketch in charcoal, followed by pencil, and once I'm satisfied, I start applying the oil paints. I imagine the drawing in my head and fill it in until the painting is complete." She truly enjoys working with oils because they take longer to dry, acrylics just dry too fast for her to fully develop the painting.

Lise always worries about running out of imagination or ideas and not being able to paint anymore. Her work gives her such joy and she couldn't imagine not being able to paint the happiness of children at play.



Lise Labbé, *Sans Titre*, 30" x 34"





Nicole Laporte, AH! L'Été, 16" x 20"



Nicole Laporte, Sans Titre, 16" x 20"



Nicole Laporte, *En Juillet, Au Clair De Lune*, 20" x 28"

Nicole Laporte

Nicole Laporte was born and partly raised in Montreal, and started drawing when she was very young. "I guess you could say I've always been artistic, but it was only in 1980 when I decided to start painting," says Nicole. "I took some private lessons and did a lot of experimenting on my own and since 2002 I have been painting full time."

Just recently, Nicole moved into a new house and hasn't had a chance to set up a proper studio, but that doesn't stop her from creating. Her environment is very inspiring, as she lives near the Ottawa River in an area where there are few inhabitants. The quiet and beauty are key ingredients for her creations because all her paintings come from Nicole's imagination.

Nicole states, "Most of my inspiration comes from how I'm feeling, what I see and the seasons. It's a story to tell and my paintings are anecdotal." Nicole loves painting and, when she is not exploring her craft, she is out getting inspired. "Paint, Paint, Paint," says Nicole. "That is the only way to master your medium and cause magic on the canvas."

Laporte is always learning and improving her technique. Her paintings might be different from her fellow artists' and friends', but her goal is the same. "To go further, learn, try, make mistakes and start all over again."

She prefers working with oils, and once she has decided on the subject and the image is well defined in her head, she will start the drawing. Next, Laporte blocks the canvas with a much

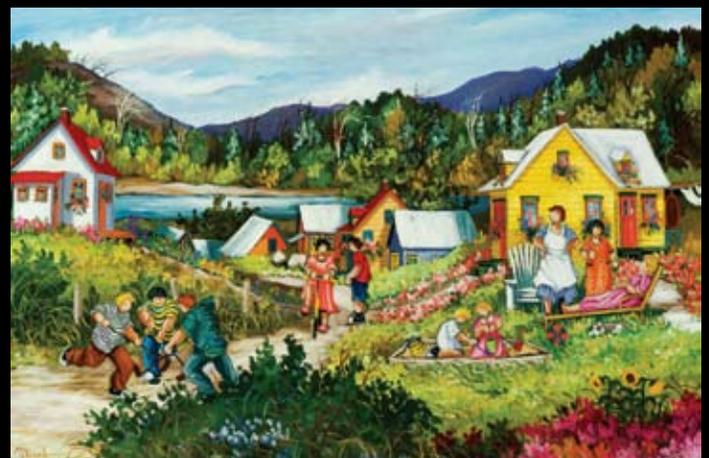
diluted acrylic and then, when the acrylic has dried completely, she starts applying the oil. Nicole has also worked with other mediums but always comes back to oil because it feels the most comfortable.

She finds the hardest thing about her craft is pulling back into the real world, and she doesn't like to handle the sales part of painting. For that, she prefers to use an agent.

Painting, in itself, inspires Nicole Laporte and for as

long as she can remember, her desire has been to tell a story with paint. She loves to follow her inspiration and, in turn, people who own her paintings feel that inspiration and the magic.

Nicole paints people of all ages, enjoying life in every season. There is a genuine sense of community or village in her work and everyone is having a great time. Family dogs race after cross country skiers; women watch the activities, while catching up on the neighbourhood happenings; people pass on the street and share a conversation; children play hockey or roast marshmallows over the campfire. Each painting portrays individuals in all different times of life – children, teenagers, young adults, senior citizens – but the common thread is the sense of love, life and laughter that spills off the colourful canvas paintings and into your heart and soul.



Lise Labbé, *Ça, C'Est Une Belle Journée!*, 20" x 24"



Lise Lacaille, *La Salsa*, 24" x 36"

Lise Lacaille

Lise Lacaille was born in St. Bruno, Quebec, and it was there she first developed her style. But since her husband retired a few years ago, they have been living their dream in Costa Rica. Living here allows Lise to experiment even more with her painting.

Now she has a view of the ocean when she paints, and can hear the birds singing around her and the sound of the waves in the wind. Basically, she is surrounded by nature in its purest form. "Daily life and people inspire me," Lise Lacaille says, "Lovers, the wonderment of children, pretty much everything that brings us a feeling of joy."

When Lise Lacaille paints, there is an explosion of pure colour on the canvas, and when she steps back to put on a finishing touch, she discovers once again that red has been a primary energy in the painting. It literally dominates and gives the scene a vividness that is palpable, an energy accentuated by the gestures of the figures.

As a young girl, Lise was strolling through a shopping mall with her parents, when her attention was suddenly drawn to an old man painting a large fresco. The act of creation bewitched her and she was fascinated by the magic that was taking place before her eyes. It woke in her a desire to become an artist. Lise was only seven at the time, but from that point on she knew where she was going. As a woman, she fell in love with painting and became a master at movement and colour on the canvas.

With oil paints, she is able to bring out the richness in the scene and capture both the light and emotion. She uses acrylics and watercolours but loves oil. Lise Lacaille always starts off with

a vague idea of what she wants her painting to be and works on the drawing until she is satisfied with it. Then she will add acrylics and finish with the oils, either in transparencies or textures.

Lise loves to paint what inspires her, but she also likes to make people happy. "My job consists of pleasing people," she says. "What could be better than to spend the day painting and follow it up with a great meal with friends and the wonderful man in my life."

Her paintings are populated by couples living in obvious harmony and with true equality between the sexes. Faces remain blank and the body dominates the scenes. The artist has successfully captured the human body in all its movement and so her figures seem to come to life on the canvas; they speak to us. Hand movements and the rustle of clothing are accentuated by the round shapes. The lines are generous. And the point of view is



Lise Lacaille, *Dancing in the Streets*, 48" x 36"



Lise Lacaille, *Sans Titre*, 48" x 36"



Lise Lacaille, *L'Amour Au Menu*, 48" x 36"



Lise Lacaille, *Toi Et Moi*, 48" x 36"

that of a small child watching the world go by.

Lise Lacaille paints the kind of people you would love to meet and her canvas paintings take us to a world of fun, movement and colour. The female images are large in spirit, flamboyant and carry the scent of an inexplicable sweetness. These women deploy all of their sensuality knowing full well how to take their place in our zany society. They are certainly delicate, but made strong by their hearts and spirit.

The artist's compass is movement. She knows well how a dancer moves, the soft blow of a bow on a cello's strings or the way a ball hits another ball on the billiard table. And she knows how to make us laugh. Her paintings are adventures in

pleasure. From young to old there is something for everyone.

Lise generally works in large formats on masonite, which she first undercoats and then sands. Next, she does her outlines in charcoal and shades them with diluted acrylic. She prepares her base coat with acrylic because it dries rapidly, saving her time. She finishes with oil because it gives her the time to play with the qualities of light and dark.

This technique allows her to have fun with her subjects and has helped to fuel her creative vision. The people in her paintings twist and turn at the whim of an artist obsessed with movement, and while Lise may not be as bold as her images, it is her joy and zest for life that comes alive on the canvas.

Lise Lacaille is happy and, above all else, grateful. She understands how difficult it is to climb the art world ladder, and that many talented artists never make it. She also knows that with confidence and, without trying to rock the boat too much, our dreams can be realized.

To view more of all three of these artists' work please visit www.multi-art.net.



Nicole Laporte, *Les Éliminatoires*, 12" x 36"



Lise Lacaille, *Le Bar Aux Chats*, 24" x 30"



L. Lacaille, *Sans Titre*, 16" x 20"



N. Laporte, *Sans Titre*, 24" x 30"



Marc Gaupeau, *Le Virtuose*, 24" x 30"



L. Labbé, *La Course*, 30" x 40"



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MA Leblond, *Un Parfum Pour Une Femme*, 40" x 30"



Diane Brunet, *Ceuilleuse De Lavande Au Travail*, 24" x 30"



Lynda Schneider Granatstein, *Daffodils Sunroom*, 36" x 48"



Claude Tremblay, *Oasis De Parfums*, 30" x 30"

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