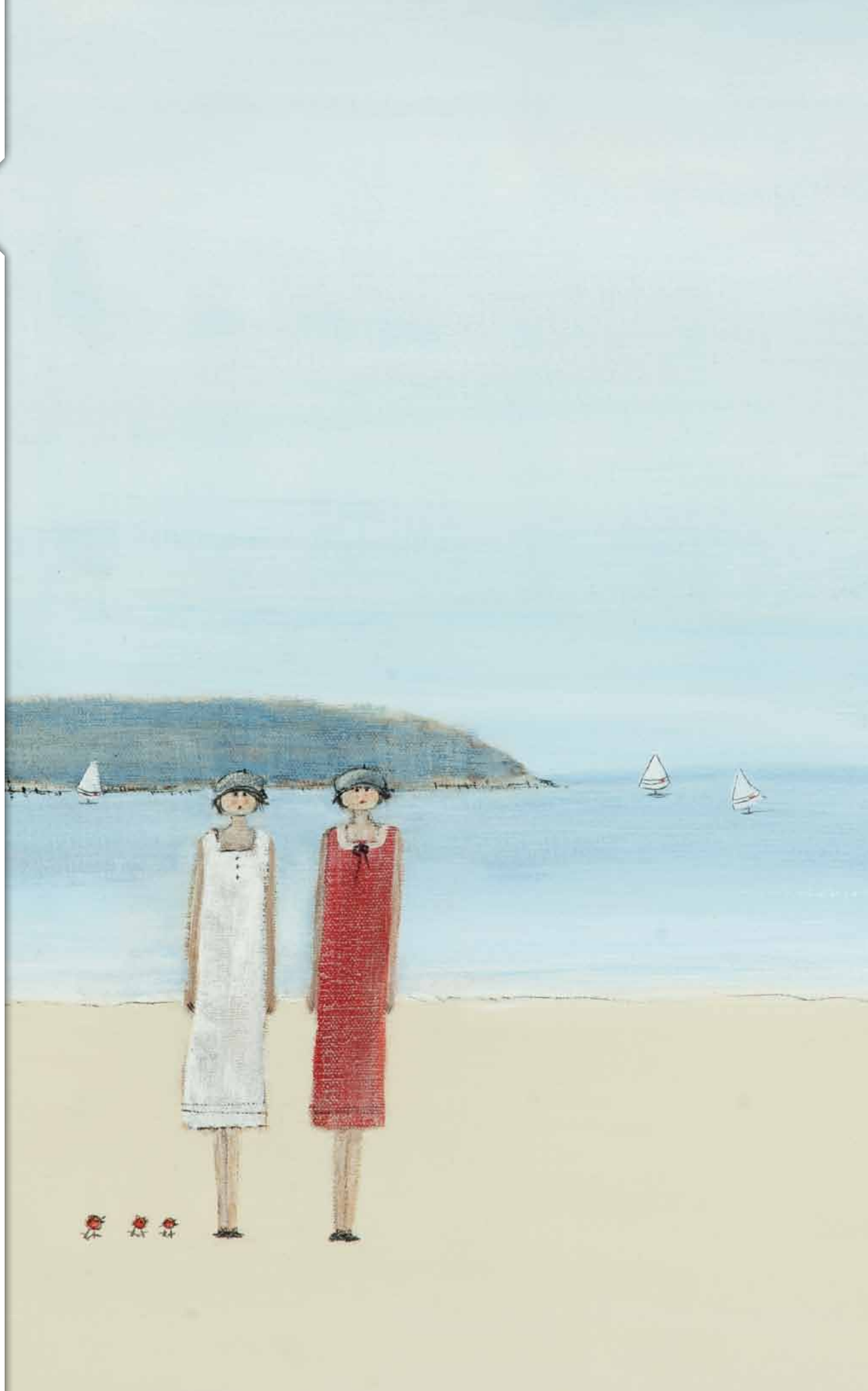


Artist to Collect

# Louise Lauzon





left, *Trois Voiles*, acrylic on canvas, 18" x 14"  
above, *Des Fleurs*, acrylic on canvas, 30" x 24"

## Sensitivity & A Busy Street

written by Lorie Lee Steiner

Louise Lauzon is quintessential proof that we are reflections of our early environment. From the day of her birth in Montreal in 1956, Louise was nurtured by parents who were very involved in the art world. "My father was a Sunday painter. We spent weekends in the Laurentians with other artists who were discussing painting techniques, art in general and creativity. This was

my childhood and my universe, which made for a loving home. George Couture, Laurent Lapointe and my Dad showed me from an early age the complexity of art and creation."

By the time she was 15, Louise knew that being an artist was her destiny. Frère Jérôme, a friend and associate of Paul-Emile Borduas, recognized her talent and accepted her as a student. "After three years with Frère Jérôme, I organized an exposition of my paintings with the group Atelier













previous spread left, *Toi et Moi*, acrylic on canvas, 16" x 16"

previous spread right, *Le Dejeuner*, acrylic on canvas, 16" x 8"

in Montreal and another in Paris. I presented my paintings at the World Trade Centre of Montreal and at the Palais de Justice." At the youthful age of 20, Louise was already an instructor at the College of Notre-Dame. Her work has been exhibited to wide acclaim in various fine galleries since the year 2000, and she is also a recognized expert in contemporary art history.

To say that Frère Jérôme influenced Louise's artistic career is an understatement. She credits his teachings and his paintings with having a profound effect on her work. The liberty she found in his studio, and the research done to discover new ways of self-expression, resulted in her finding her unique style. Simply put, Louise is a painter of people. But that doesn't begin to do her justice. Louise's signature characters quietly reach out and beg your attention, holding

you captive long after you bid them "adieu." Summoned to the canvas from her imagination and memories of everyday scenes, these powerful images are remarkable in their simplicity.

Louise's sensitive nature is at the heart of it all. She says, "The books I read, the walking each day, the movies... they make up my soul. Sometimes I will read a book, be it fiction or nonfiction, and one scene will inspire me to do a painting. Sometimes a trip to the beach will transform to a street scene, and sometimes my inspiration is taken from many scenarios to make a painting as unique as those sources of inspiration. There are times that I finish the painting without realizing I am painting a particular person I met on the street. All things in life are an inspiration to me. One of my favourite artists, John Der, said that to take a second of your life and depict it on canvas was to immortalize the



left, *Le Feuille d'Or*, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 20"

left, *Rouge*, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 20"

moment. How true that is."

Talking to others also stimulates the creative instinct. Sometimes one word can be a basis for a new idea, hence a new painting or part of one. Louise often gets together with other artists to discuss art, its history and where we are going in the future. A throwback to her fondly remembered childhood weekends. Louise is impressed by the sensibility of other artists. By their creativity and their sense of light and shadow. She likes Impressionists, as well as the great abstract artists such as Milton Avery, because they work with so much sensitivity. John Der is one of her favourite figurative painters.

Louise's studio faces a busy street, and she often finds new subjects by looking out her window. She appreciates that the light coming through the glass is usually quite bright; finding

it lends an airiness to her paintings. "I start with a blank canvas and the inspiration is there from the first brush stroke I make on it – coming from deep inside my soul. Each painting is inspired by the ones I did before, so there is always a sense of connection in my work."

When not busy working in her studio, Louise enjoys spending time painting with her father in the scenic Laurentides, or curled up with a good book. She admits, "My biggest phobia is anything related to hospitals, dentists, or other places that affect my sensitivity in a negative way. I use my sensitivity to set me apart from other artists. It all begins with a brush stroke and from there something inside determines where I go. To someone starting out as an artist, my advice is: Let it go! Do your own thing. Don't copy. Be yourself."

It's obvious from her paintings that the subject













previous spread left, *Decembre*, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 16"  
previous spread right, *Le Robe Rouge*, acrylic on canvas, 24" x 12"

above, *Dentelle*, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 20"  
right, *Le Café de la Marine*, acrylic on canvas, 9" x 7"

of Louise's major focus and interest is people. She notes that the background setting is secondary. Summer, winter, spring and fall will always bring an abundant number of scenes. When asked about her method of painting, Louise has a definitive answer: "I don't have a technique. This is a word that I don't like because it blocks creativity. In my case, it is the sensitivity inside that determines my work and allows creativity to flourish. Of course, being as sensitive as I am, it bothers me when people do not like my work or are indifferent to it. Each painting is a part of me. Sometimes I have an urge to paint that can't be denied. It is like breathing, it just can't be denied."

Being immersed in a world of creativity all her life, Louise has had the opportunity to explore a variety of mediums. Her preference is clear. "Having used watercolour inks and clay earlier in

my career, I now prefer acrylics. These colours are very rich and they dry faster, so I can superimpose colours." Although commissioned pieces are not Louise's favourite thing to do, she says they will often open a new venue from where she can find inspiration. Hearing the positive comments from people who have commissioned her works is reward in itself. She feels that the best part of doing a show is the chance to communicate with people who are looking at her work. Ever tuned in to her audience, Louise is constantly aware and watching...often a word or look can be an inspiration for a new piece.

"My father and his friends inspired me from the time I was a little girl. Once the flame was lit, I looked elsewhere for inspiration and a mentor. Finding and being accepted as a student by Frère Jérôme was a very important



Le Café de la Marine







above, *Le Café du chat qui aime lire*, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 20"  
right, *La Maison Bleue*, acrylic on canvas, 20" x 20"



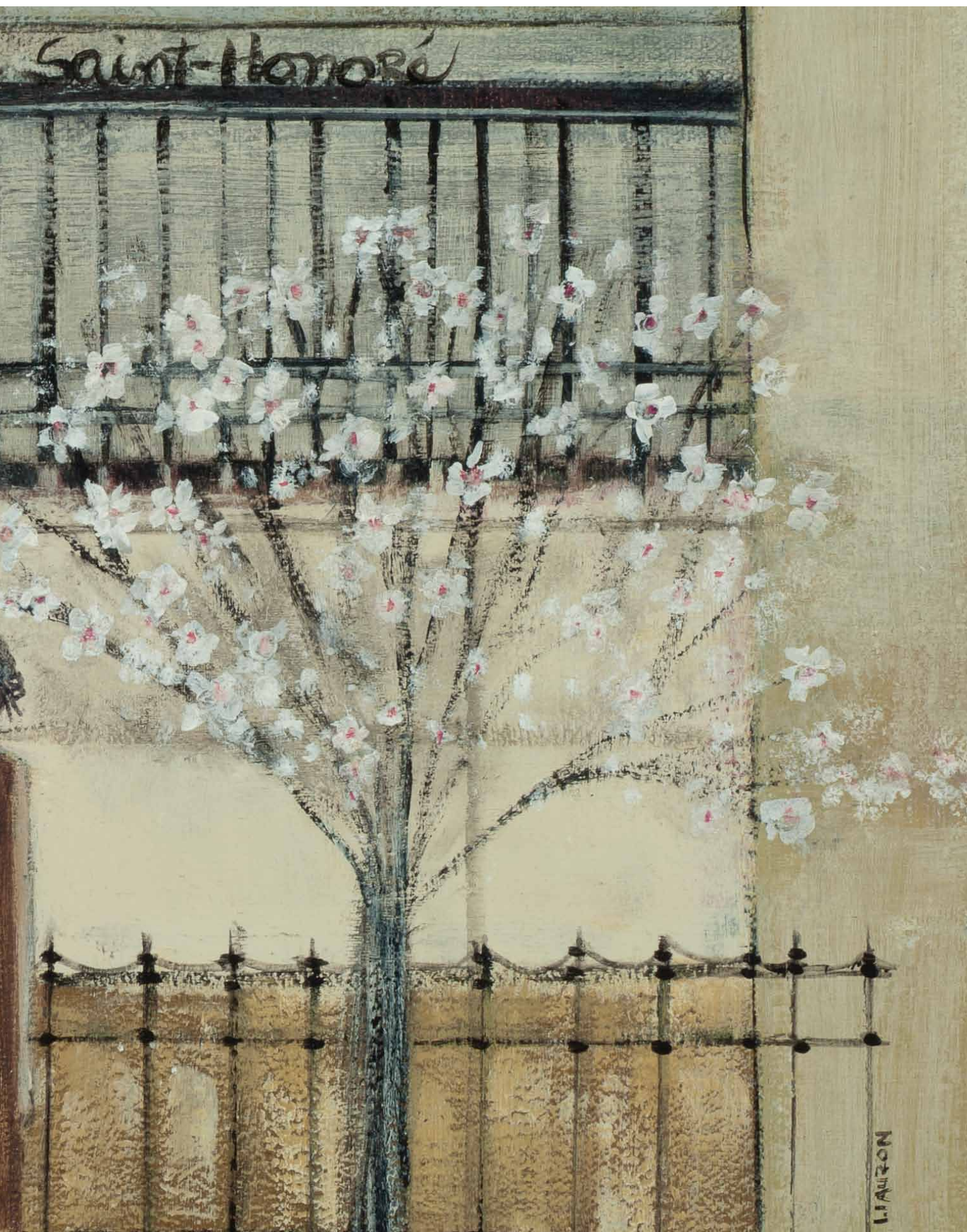




Le Faubourg







Saint-Honoré

LIAURON









previous spread, *Le Faubourg Saint-Honore*, acrylic on canvas, 11" x 14"  
left, *Nu Pieds*, acrylic on canvas, 10" x 8"

above, *Le Café du Chat Noir*, acrylic on canvas, 14" x 14"

part of my career. Books, movies and just observing people, places and things on my many walks continue to serve as an inspiration for my creativity."

Of course, no one can work all the time. Even the most conscientious creators need some downtime to refresh the muse. Louise's favourite escapes are unpretentious, healthy and totally enjoyable. "On my time off, when I finally decide to have some, I love to take long walks with my dog, Miss Lucy. Sometimes shopping will inspire me, too. I have a very simple palette. Vegetarian and dumplings. Cheese is also an important part of my diet. Although my taste in food has limitations, in wine there are no limits as long as it is well made. I quite enjoy Canadian and Californian wines.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have bought my paintings...

thanks to you I can earn my living doing what I love best. To paint."

Louise Lauzon is represented by these fine galleries:

**Le Balcon D'art**

Saint-Lambert, QC  
www.balcondart.com  
450.466.8920

**Tutt Street Gallery**

Kelowna, BC  
www.tuttartgalleries.ca  
250.861.4992

**White Rock Gallery**

White Rock, BC  
www.whiterockgallery.com  
604.538.4452