

Andre Bertounesque

Mon pays, c'est l'été...

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Landscape painting is not an easy genre and there are few great landscape artists. In Canada, one thinks automatically of the Group of Seven and Carence Gagnon whose works have the power to really move the viewer. They engendered a host of copyists who produced rather superficial landscapes full of twisted pine trees and lonely barns, single-handedly furthering the cause of abstract art because its practitioners were more sophisticated.

Fortunately, a few great landscapists do exist and André Bertounesque is one of them. Each of his works is like a piece of poetry, a celebration of sunshine and of summer. His



A. Bertounesque 6636 Ambiance feuillée 24x30

scenes are full of light, with sparkling pools of water and the limbs of great trees casting shadows. His works feature a few discreet figures, generally feminine and seemingly indifferent to the viewer, but nonetheless reinforcing the general feeling of love for life.



A. Bertounesque "Cette nature qui nous Parle"
40x30 Dig. 1675

Born in Provence, André Bertounesque settled in Montréal with his parents in 1955 when he was eighteen years old. Self-taught as an artist, he painted in his leisure time while earning his living in a number of different ways including running a hairdressing salon. One day, he decided to exhibit some of his works in his salon and the rest as we say is history. He finally closed up shop, and devoted himself to his art.

Early in his career, André Bertounesque painted people exclusively. Then, after travels in the American southwest, he reduced his palette and went in for luminosity and transparency. Beaches and vacationers were his favourite subjects. His painting became more substantial, vigorous and tangible. Gradually, meadows replaced beaches and wooded views replaced large vistas. But there was always the woman looking into the distance, dreaming, meditation or simply relaxing.

Today a true master of his art, Bertounesque completely immerses himself in his work. Thanks to his harmonious and poetic paintings, our children will believe that happiness and beauty are possible in this life.