

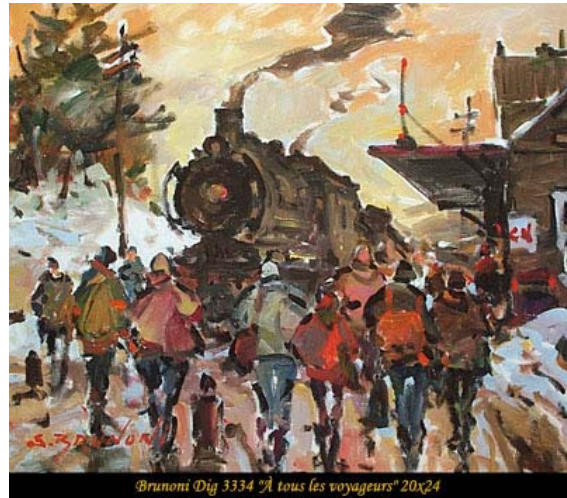
Serge Brunoni

Serenity amid Temporality and Memory

In France, Brunoni would be described as an "easterner"; i.e., someone from Lorraine, the region that gave the country states men and military leaders like de Gaulle. Natives of Lorraine usually have itchy feet, the desire to see other places, yet do remain faithful to the homeland. Serge Brunoni certainly exemplifies this spirit as a traveller and artist.

Serge Brunoni has a nonchalant air but speaks carefully and earnestly as he describes childhood memories of drawing which World War II and financial problems brought to an end with a factory job at age 14. Mandatory military service would follow and give him a chance to see the world, or at least part of Africa. Once demobilized Serge decided to immigrate to the wide open spaces of Canada. In 1963, he arrived in Trois-Rivières which has remained his home ever since.

At his wife's suggestion, Brunoni renewed his childhood enthusiasm for art. The Galerie Kastel took notice of the self-taught artist and gave him a chance, a lucky break that Serge remembers with gratitude.



Brunoni Dig 3334 "A tous les voyageurs" 20x24



S. Brunoni "Montréal rue laval" 24x30 Dig. 1097

Serge Brunoni paints by instinct. Each image is built around an element he wishes to represent, a starting point, from which the rest is created while he is painting.

Three major themes can be found in his work: a man within the isolation of nature, the city and trains. These themes complement one another in that the city provides a stable, populous environment; the woods, a return to the self, freedom and an appreciation of time; the train, a link between the two. The train also evokes the traveller within us all, especially within Brunoni, who always keeps a train ready to head somewhere, like a dream machine.

Serge keeps in mind the classic advice that great art is omission. Simplicity is vital to his technique, inspired by that of Cosgrove and especially, Matisse. Completely lucid in his style, Brunoni pushes his colours and lines to the maximum, exploring all the possibilities. Colour is very much present yet at the service of the artist's streamlined strokes works like *La marina de Sillery*.

Not inclined to advance great theories, but definitely inclined to strive for technical perfection, Brunoni speaks of the truth of Art with a capital A, and his modest desire to share his experience of life with those who view his work.