

ART, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

MARCH 2020

ARABELLA





BRUNONI : ET ILS SUIVRONT OU QUE TU AILLES 36X48



BRUNONI : ST. ANNE ST. QUEBEC 30X40



BRUNONI : PRESTIGIEUX BAROLO 24X30

SERGE BRUNONI 1938-2020

Thank you Serge
for your beautiful
contributions!



FAY, BONNITTA, SERGE & NATALIE



LE BALCON D'ART

650 Notre-Dame
Saint-Lambert, Québec
J4P 2L1

Tel: 450 466-8920 or 1 866 466-8920
info@balcondart.com

Serge Brunoni



Above, Quebec, Place D'Armes, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Following Page, top; Montreal, Fevrier Sur Sherbrooke Ouest, oil on canvas, 30" x 48"

Following Page, bottom; Montreal, Sherbrooke Ouest, oil on canvas, 40" x 60"

A rare and exceptional talent A tribute to Serge Brunoni

written by Debra Usher and Steve Pearson

There are people who mark the lives of those they touch. Sometimes it is by their generosity, sometimes by their philosophy, their intelligence, their talent; the list can be long and varied.



Serge Brunoni, for his part, leaves his mark on people's lives through all these facets of his personality. A man of rare talent, extraordinary intelligence and unparalleled generosity, his sense of sharing is something that has touched all who knew him. A Renaissance man, he had the same passion for music, history, philosophy and a hundred other subjects as he had for the arts.

Quebec – In the Beginning

When Serge Brunoni arrived in Quebec, a career in the arts was the last of his concerns. Like most immigrants of his day, a new land meant new challenges, the unknown and a fresh start. Of course, like many immigrants, this was not his first challenge.

Born in France just before the Second World War, his early childhood was obviously marked by the uncertainties and privations inherent to the occupation of his country. This did not prevent little Serge from discovering a passion and a talent for drawing that he practiced furiously throughout his childhood.



This Page, above; La Notion Du Temps N'Existe Pas, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"
Following Page, bottom; D'Une Ruelle a L'Autre, oil on canvas, 40" x 60"

Like all the young French men of his time, Brunoni had to go through military service, a task he accomplished with pleasure seeing it as an adventure. Following his service, he joined the Society of Works and Topographic Studies (S.A.T.E.T.), which worked on the construction of a railroad in Africa.

Here he would spend three years living in the jungle, happy to indulge in his taste for adventure. Even this year, he still regaled everyone who would listen with anecdotes on the subject.

Coming to Quebec in the mid-1960s, he became a Trifluvian and his sense of belonging to his adopted country and city would be just as important in his work as in his way of looking at life. Serge would forever be an attentive, critical observer without ever falling into bitterness or negativity. A humanist, he never hesitated to encourage and congratulate the people he met, always leaving smiles and warmth in his path.

He arrived in Quebec in 1963 and following the advice of local people, chose Trois-Rivières as his home port. In the years that followed, Brunoni worked in different jobs ranging from a cook to an encyclopedia salesman.

The Birth of an Artist

It was in 1969, when his wife gave him a new box of colors and brushes, that he discovered what would become his passion; his reason for living.



He became a professional painter from 1972 on. Brunoni drew his influences from several sources. A scholar of art and philosophy, he used his knowledge and his thirst for new ideas to reach creative summits that have been constantly renewed for over fifty years now.

For the casual spectator, it may look like the artist was sticking to some older artistic conventions and principles. That would be grossly misunderstanding the work of a painter for whom the poetry of his adopted country is constantly reborn in artistic explorations that owe as much to American impressionism as to expressionist painters such as Kandinsky or Alwar Cawén.

His vision of Quebec's great outdoors may be reminiscent of René Richard, but the economy of means he is able to demonstrate brings him closer to Elaine de Kooning or even minimalist painters, taking a page from Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's "less is more" philosophy... In fact, with Brunoni, the immediacy of the gesture betrayed poetry while retaining the essential of a well-thought out artistic approach. The apparent free form of Brunoni's painting was firmly anchored in a cerebral understanding of art into an apparently playful and almost automatic approach.



Above, Quebec, Montreal, Laval Street, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

His interpretation of the city betrays the love / hate relationship he maintained with major cities. The busy tangle of actors in the moments he staged, the complex and sometimes almost anarchic compositions that populate the immense paintings he favoured and the apparent casualness that transpires from Brunoni's urban work bring the viewer to an almost claustrophobic pictorial universe that revealed the artist's need for wide open spaces.

A Long and Lovely Career

Through a career spanning more than fifty years, Serge has left his mark on Quebec. The artist never took an exact inventory, but he probably signed between 7,000 and 8,000 canvases, including an incalculable number of representations of Montreal's urban landscapes, the charm of Old Quebec and the quintessential "Rue des Ursulines" in Trois-Rivières. His work can now be found across Canada, in major collections and has even crossed borders to be found elsewhere on the planet.



Above, Montreal, Rue Sherbrooke, oil on canvas, 30" x 40"

Year after year, he devoted 5% of his production to various charities and in 2012, as part of the ceremonies in honor of the sixty years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, he won the Diamond Jubilee medal.

A lover of wide open spaces, he devoted part of his time to fishing and the outdoors, even when illness took away part of his energy and mobility.

To Say Goodbye

It is hard to say good-bye to Serge, our friend, our brother and a creator of such a varied and colourful legacy. Evening with his health declining we were all still amazed by the youthfulness of his brushwork and the vivacity of his soul. Serge Brunoni passed away on the morning of February 19, 2020, following a long illness. He leaves us now to join his sweet Suzette and the many other artists he considered to be members of his extended family. He leaves behind sons Nicolas and Hugues, countless friends, his admirers but, above all, his artistic family of which we are all very proud to be a part. We shall miss his smile and the ever present sparkle in his eye.



Above; Montreal, Berri Street, oil on canvas, 36" x 48"



Above; Capal Est, oil on canvas, 30" x 36"

For those who had the pleasure and the honor of knowing Serge Brunoni, he was an inspiration and a source of questions ever renewed. Generous by nature, he never hesitated to share his latest discoveries, readings and reflections on literally any and all topics.

History will surely tell us, but a retrospective view of Brunoni's work easily suggests that he will be one of the few artists to have marked Quebec's art history. Both Serge and his work will remain significant onward into the future.

The work of Serge Brunoni is represented by many fine galleries and to find details on his large catalogue of paintings please contact:

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Above: *J'Ai Vu*,
oil on canvas, 30" x 36"

Below: *Vers Le Nord*,
oil on canvas, 30" x 36"

Serge Brunoni

1938 - 2020



