

ARTS & CULTURE

PAINTINGS WITH A DIFFERENCE

In the three years since his last exhibit, Quebec artist Jean-Guy Desrosiers has not been idle, and from October 13 to 23 he will be exhibiting some 50 of the acrylics and watercolors he has created since 1980.

Those who are familiar with Desrosiers' work may be a little surprised to see his latest collection of acrylics. Instead of his more traditional and realistic cityscapes of Quebec and landscapes showing the local countryside, they are rather haunting and mystical figurative works that are wholly the product of his imagination.

Some of these paintings depict barren, almost frightening settings inhabited by medusa-like characters and watched over by menacing-looking «Spirits», while others are surrealistic landscapes. Most of them are monochromatic, with gray and purple being the predominant colors.

The artist says that he is «stepping out of reality» in these paintings and that «They are pieces of reality put together to give a whole new feeling. People can look at my pictures and be free to interpret them as they wish. Figurative paintings such as these give the viewer more scope than more conventional themes do».

Jean-Guy Desrosiers sees his latest acrylics as another step in the evolution of his artistic style, both in terms of the subject matter portrayed and the fact that this particular medium allows him to experiment with a variety of effects. «All of these paintings are based on ideas that came into my mind when I sat down to work. The style I used is different from what I had done before and is also different from the way I'm painting now,» observes the artist, who often works in oils as well. Mr. Desrosiers, who works as an illustrator at Defence Research Establishment Valcartier and has been painting for almost 30 years, is perhaps best known for his watercolors. Several of them will be included in the exhibit, which will add a lighter, brighter note to the display.

He is an expert at this technique and excels at capturing the essence and charm of Old Quebec and its surrounding area with simple lines and fresh colors. In this particular collection, the buildings around

Place d'Armes come alive in bright reds and blues; and rural scenes of snow-covered fields and quaint houses are soothingly tranquil.

Jean-Guy Desrosiers' exhibit opens this Thursday at 9 p.m. at the Galerie du Trait-Carré, 7985, du Trait-Carré east in Charlesbourg. Gallery hours are from 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 1 too 4:30 and 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The gallery is closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph, October 12, 1983

By Pam Cheers