

Galipeau art headed to Paris

His work is already on display in Montreal, St-Jean and Quebec City

A painting by St-Jean-sur-Richelieu artist Marc Galipeau will be among those on display at the Musée du Carrousel within the famous Louvre museum in Paris next month.

The exhibit features the work of 10 Quebec painters and two sculptures as part of the museum's continuing shows of modern works from international artists.

<Marc is thrilled, it's a once in a lifetime experience,> explained Mario Nadeau, the agent for the Québécois painter. <He has exhibited in France before but never in such a prestigious place.>

The Musée du Carrousel, curated by the Louvre, is part of the Carrousel du Louvre, an exclusive shopping area entered via the world famous museum.

Galipeau was introduced to the show by fellow artist Michel Desmarais.

<Marc was asked to submit a dossier and was one of those selected from among many entries. We will be there for the four days, personally seeing to the placement of the picture, which has already been sold.>

Galipeau paints in a very distinctive style, using mixed acrylic and resin. Each painting is dominated by the same figure, a boy/child, featureless except for a mouth.

<It's fantasy art,> said Nadeau. <The character is always painted in different contexts – with chess pieces, musical instruments, in gardens, with fruits or vegetables. In the painting, going to Paris, the figure is surrounded by clocks.>

Born in St-Jean in 1967, Galipeau was trained as a teacher majoring in special education and learning disabilities. Always fascinated by painting and art, after a number of successful shows, he retired from teaching to paint full time. Now living in Farnham, he commutes to his studio in St-Jean.

<I seek an intensity that causes various emotions,> Galipeau explained. <I use very strong and alive colours, but also seek a softness in the covered subjects. I draw from my experiences and seek to make these experiences concrete, transforming them and giving them life. The hot lines of the drawing consolidate the structure of the thought.>

The visual impact of Galipeau's art lends itself well to various products and the artist's figure has been adapted to T-shirts, cards and prints.

<We've produced an animated video recently and will continue more diverse applications in the future,> Nadeau added. <Marc's art sells very well, it's popular. He did a show in Lac St-Jean over Thanksgiving and sold 10 of the 12 paintings.>

Galipeau's shows in 2006 include the Bromont Art Symposium, Urban Colours in Granby, the Lieutenant Governor's Garden Exhibit, the Symposium in Danville, Meet Art in St-Jean and the Festival of art in Valleyfield.

His work is on permanent display at Gallery Le Bourget in Montreal, Gallery Artist in St-Jean, Gallery Beaux Art in Old Quebec and Gallery Art and Miss in Paris.

<The upcoming show at the Louvre's Carrousel Museum is very special for us,> concluded Nadeau. <We'll be there for the opening party on Dec. 10. It is great recognition for Marc to be part of this Quebec artistic mission.> The show is Dec. 14 to 18.