



Go Ahead and Take a Chance *Marc Galipeau*

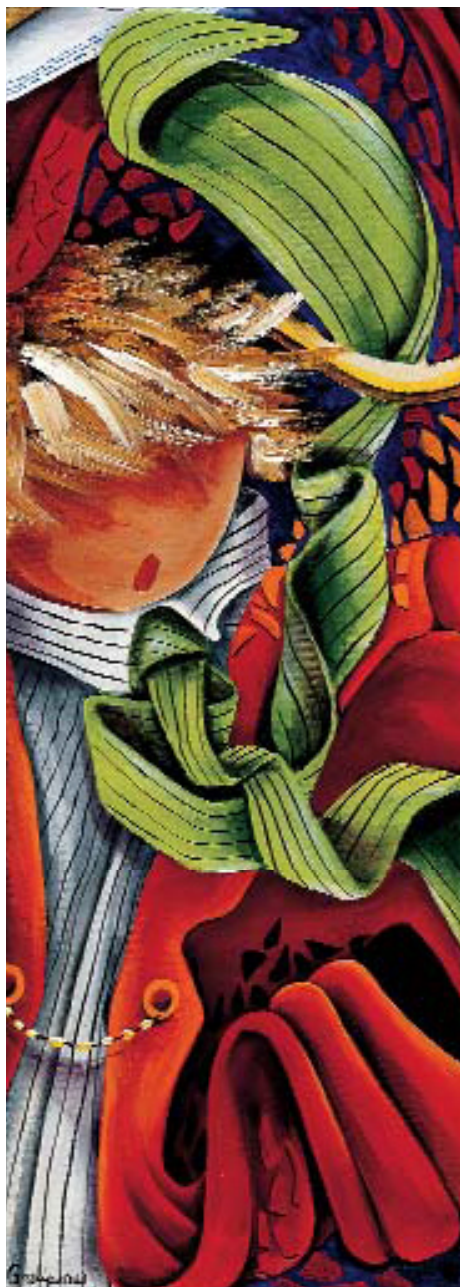
The restrained, clear and brilliant look in Marc Galipeau's eyes is a testament to the pleasure he derives from being able to live off of his art. Represented by Multi-Arts since 2007 he can now dedicate himself to his brushes without having to worry about the commercial end of things.

It wasn't always so. Galipeau was the youngest of 8 children and many of his siblings shared an artistic tendency with him. Only he, has carried on to make a profession out of it. Born in 1967 he grew up in the bucolic village of Notre-Dame de Standbridge, east of Montréal. He loved to draw and paint and knew from the beginning that he wanted to be an artist.

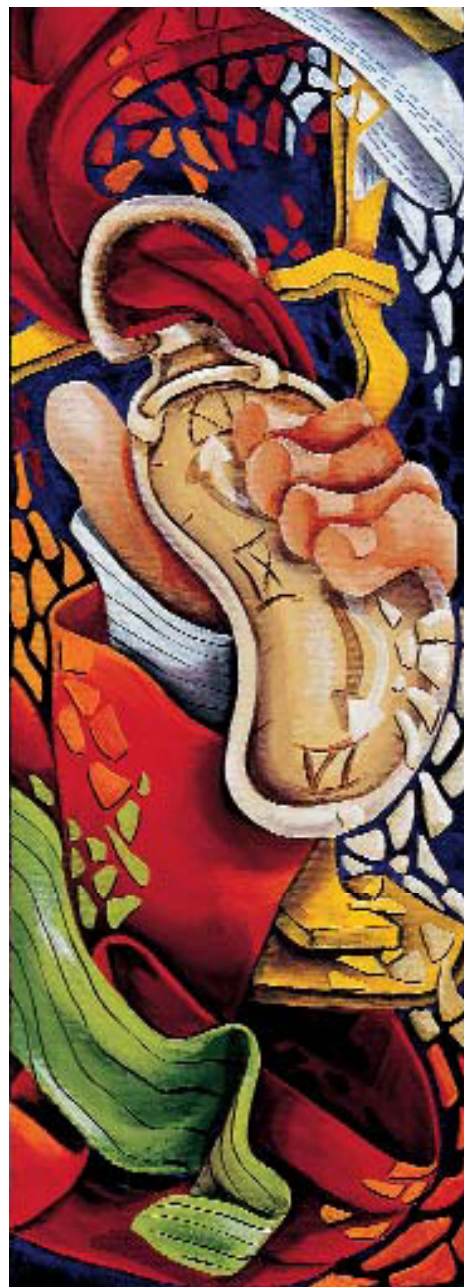
When the time came to make a career choice, however, the insecurity inherent in an artist's life overwhelmed him and he took a teaching degree followed up with a specialization in special needs education.

Once he graduated from school in Montréal, Galipeau returned to the country close to where he grew up, living in Farnham where he taught for seven years. He now lives in Bedford on the cusp between the Montérégie and the Eastern Townships.

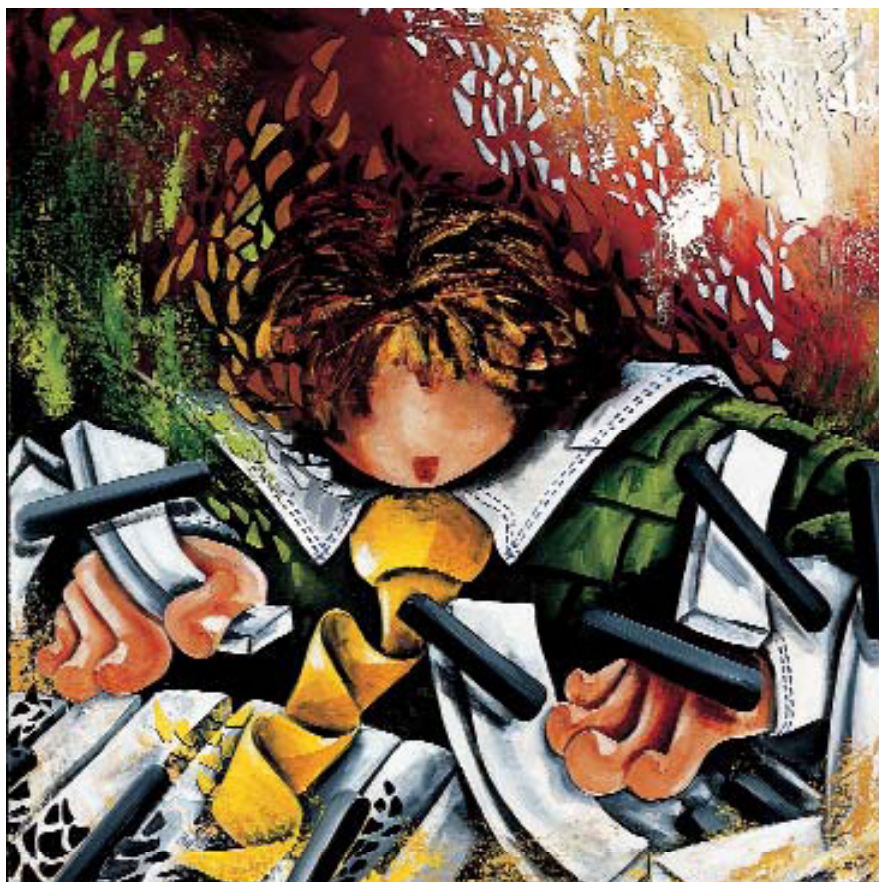
As he taught he dreamed of painting and when he was offered a permanent position as a teacher he decided that enough was enough. If he took the job he would never follow his dream. And



A LIFE TIME/Le temps d'une vie, diptych, 2007, 30 x 10 in.



THE TIME THAT I HAVE/Le temps que je possède, diptych, 2007, 30 x 10 in.



A LIBERATED LIFE /Une vie qui se libère, 2007, 30 x 30 in.



CONFIDENCE/La confiance, 2007, 16 x 16 in.



A LIFE'S PLAY/Un jeu de vie, 2008, 60 x 20 in.

so, in 2005, to the shock of his colleagues, he abandoned the security of teaching for the uncertainty of life as an artist.

"All of my colleagues thought I was crazy to dive into the unknown and give up a secure future. But, I knew that if I had taken the position my liberty would be curtailed and the progress I could make in painting would be minimal," says Galipeau.

Galipeau is self-taught, although he has been able to learn from asking artists he has befriended questions. As he

went through school and then became a teacher he continued to draw and paint.

To make ends meet Galipeau used the computer graphic skills he had learned to land a part time job as a graphic designer at a local newspaper, where he worked for two weeks out of the month.

The other two weeks of the month he devoted himself to painting. This first blush of enthusiasm produced roughly 20 paintings and a surprising result. When Galipeau took them to the local art emporium to have them framed the owner persuaded Galipeau to hang them in his gallery and to Galipeau's surprise the lot of them sold like hotcakes.

Galipeau's confidence soared and in the following year he gained representation with galleries in Québec City, Magog and Montréal. For two years he shared a studio with painter Daniel Vincent and together they collaborated on some 15 paintings.

Galipeau decided that, although he liked working with Vincent, his public was becoming confused and that it would be better to work on his own. The decision was bolstered by the fact that financially he was becoming better off.

Accordingly Galipeau then moved his studio to Bedford where, happily for all concerned, it was next door to a bistro. The bistro brought him a new clientele.

Galipeau works in acrylics and mixed media. For a long time he thought that his evolving style would become hyperrealism. Instead, every time he started painting curves would start to appear. Eventually he just gave in and decided to follow what his brush was doing, rather than stay the course on a preordained plan.

The result is Galipeau's current style, one that uses simplified forms that emphasize curves produced in a bright palette featuring a lot of red. His work is mainly figurative and sometimes features his subjects playing musical instruments. There is a pronounced musicality to his work.

Galipeau has developed his technique through trial and error. Keeping what he likes and forgetting the rest. Each of his canvasses serves as a trampoline propelling his style to new heights. And those are heights which have been noticed.



KITCHEN 101/Cuisine 101, 2008, 40 x 10 in.

In 2006, for instance, he took part in 11 different symposiums in Québec. He has had shows in Belgium and in different venues in France. So far, his most outstanding achievement may have been to have had a four day show, along with other artists at the gallery attached to the Louvre in Paris, Le Carrousel du Louvre.

Galipeau says that never in his dreams did he imagine that his work would be shown at the Louvre which of course begs the question: What will he do next? **I**

Lisanne LeTellier

Marc Galipeau is represented by the following galleries : Le Balcon d'art, St. Lambert; Charles Alexandre, Montréal; Iris, Baie-St-Paul; Iris au Fairmount Le Manoir Richelieu, La Malbaie; Atelier 85, St. Adèle; 2000 du Vieux-Montréal and Palais des Congrès de Montréal; Masters Gallery, Calgary, AB. His agent is by Multi-Arts, St.Lambert, www.multi-art.net



ROMANCE, 2007, 60 x 40 in.

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