

## Louise KIROUAC

“I don’t like to be rushed when I’m painting because it’s too difficult. You have to take your time, look carefully, observe and then go to it. You begin a painting, think you’ve found something, and then have to start all over again! I’m never satisfied and that is why I continue, search and do other paintings.”

She says this with such spirit, such passion and such intensity, but her spirit is controlled, her passion is thought out and her intensity is directed, just like in her paintings.

Louise Kirouac grew up in a milieu where painting was part of the family. Her older brother attended the Montréal School of Fine Arts; her younger brother learned drawing, her father had studied at the Paris Academy of Fine Arts and lived off his painting in Québec, and her grandfather once painted landscapes in his native Brittany.

And yet, Louise Kirouac’s passionate love for art took some time to manifest itself in practice seeing that he had certain other concerns. They included her family and children and Québec’s heritage which was slowly beginning to disappear and to become wasted.

That is why her paintings so frequently involve authentic Québec regions, their rural life, their magnificent landscapes, those of her native region, Lachute, of Joliette and the Beauce, and especially those of Charlevoix that her brother – Tex Lecor- helped her discover. After having painted many figures and indoor scenes during the seventies, Louise Kirouac took up the challenge of working with natural landscapes, of using light and depth in her motif, of making the forms sing with the strike of her brush according to her latest inspiration, and what inspiration – it continues to work day and night, right into her dreams.

The steeples of Québec villages have always fascinated her, attracting her like a magnet. The one in Cap-Chat towers over Gaspé coves and the houses of fishermen, cutting through the majestic blue of the distant mountains, spiraling upward towards the sky. The steeple belonging to the church in Éboulements is more modest standing in the heart of its parish with a magnificent wooded background and a sky that continually changes colors as it hangs over the back country and the river.

Since her first personal exhibition in 1975, Louise Kirouac has presented her works in several Québec galleries, and collectors especially appreciate her spontaneity and personal rhythm, as well as the tender nostalgia that she shows for a heritage that is slowly disappearing.

Québecair Envol Magazine, June 1986, In collaboration with Multi Art Ltd