

Marie-Andrée Leblond

The flower that is jealous of the sun

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Marie-Andrée Leblond is possessed of gifts other than her artistic ones. She is a philosopher of the human condition. Fragile in appearance but strong in her convictions, she is wise beyond her years as is evident in her art. She observes the passing of men and women and offers through her canvases in a humorous manner solutions for their survival.

Leblond was dissatisfied with her early works. She felt they lacked the freedom that had done as a child. And they lacked the depth she felt they should have. Unable to attend university, she enrolled in commercial illustration courses instead which led to the beginnings of a career as an illustrator.

As bright as were her prospects, however, she found the pressure of deadlines and the demands of clients unsettling. At the same time the experience taught her to

work precisely. She learned to organize her time, to mix mediums, and to work quickly. She found herself living in constant frustration however, because she was creating without emotion. The technique was there but she missed the art.

With the passage of time, Leblond developed a highly personal technique which enabled her to convey the exuberance of the theatre in paintings of people and animals. Unlike other artists who create texture after they paint, she prepares her canvases by applying a bas-relief on which she applies the soul of the painting, its colour.

She builds upon this sculpture by painting with a mix of acrylics and inks and sometimes finishes with oils, depending on the subject matter, the ambiance and the fantasy of the moment. The final result is reminiscent of a beautiful object captured on canvas with one stroke of the brush. Her luminescent colours shine like gold! "We don't sell misery", she says, laughing.



M.A. Leblond "Explorateur" 36x24 Dig.10860



M.A. Leblond "Diamants" 48x48 Dig.10866

She describes the sunflowers in her series of them as the "jealous flowers" because they seem to be trying to stretch towards the sun as if in competition with it. "They are so brave the way they try to turn their heads towards the sun, the source of life", she says. Her paintings of sunflowers are wells of fragile gold and fire. Her work also includes beautiful animals with a tolerance for the faults of humanity. The way she paints them, the roosters, horses, bulls and other creatures have something to say about the human condition.

The perfect Gemini, Marie-Andrée Leblond is two women, two artists. She sometimes gives up painting animals to paint people, especially women. One of her works, Motherland, depicts a magnificent woman who wears the mystery of the sky and the beauty of a devil. The presence of both powerful and fragile animals around her makes it a touching rendition.

Leblond has known that art would be her destiny since she was a young child. She applied to enter the prestigious Les Femmeuses exhibition when 17 but her entry was rejected... Her career has developed rapidly since, and she has exhibited, won awards, and has to date experience a wonderful life. She brings to her paintings well-constructed stories of the life she sees around her, using amusingly symbolic images of birds and animals to round them out. At 24, this young artist is just beginning.