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SCA-IAF-ARAPB

The Interview:

1. What was the determining factor that drew you to painting?
2. Did anyone ever try to discourage you from taking up the career of painter-Artist?
3. If water-color (Pastel) is your favourite medium, please explain why?
4. Do you have a hobby? What is it?
5. Among all the great human issues which one is the most important to you and why?
6. If you were named Prime Minister tomorrow, what would be the first three actions you would take?
7. What do you think is the most important sign of intelligence?
8. What is your favourite music, who is your favourite composer, do you like classical, semi-classical, light, jazz, modern or ultra modern?
9. What is your favourite kind of reading?
10. In relation to painting and art in general, is there a funny, or sad anecdote?

1. My wish to paint stems from a passion and a logical series of events. From the age of 6, I was initiated to painting by my father (I'm currently initiating my son and my daughter both 7 and 4).
2. No one ever tried to dissuade me from painting or drawing, although they did set forth all the advantages of making more "concrete" choices. So I combined needs and reason until the age of 25 by studying design and interior architecture. Drawing was an essential need for me and having a more solid training was, for my parents, a necessity. The congratulations that I received from my entourage as well as the TINTIN and the ACADEMIE ROYALE DES BEAUX-ARTS DE BRUXELLES first prizes for drawing and paintings sold, at a time when I was very young, confirmed my will to paint or at least to express myself with art.
3. I've been using water-colors rather than the other mediums for almost ten years now, and oils for at least twice that time. So I won't belittle the other mediums. However, water-color has a luminous quality that only this medium offers with such purity. In fact, with water color, the mystery of light is. All the elements appear as a result of this first principle and blend themselves around it contrary to the majority of the other mediums that construct light to cover the support. The second reason is the effort of truth that a water-color demands from its creator. He must be whole,

audacious and be able to master both the technique as well as the concept. Also, to be sufficiently flexible to allow the work to impose a sort of independence vis-à-vis his creator. Water demands this.

4. I read...too...little and I write. There is also a family that I adore and a few sensitive and intelligent friends.
5. The phenomenon of life and death is my first concern and will no doubt to be my last.... This phenomena and the questions that arise from it are with me everyday and, either hidden or visible, motivate the meaning of many paintings that I've created. To know where we come from, what we are and where we're going (like Gauguin use to ask himself) would redistribute the priorities of a winded civilisation but one that can still recharge itself. Dare to think, dare to change... that is, for me, the question. And the answer, you'll ask me? It can be found in each one of us and the success or the failure of our civilisation will be the fruit of our audacity, of our real will to change.
6. I'd allocate to the Ministry of Education that place that it rightly deserves, that is, the first one since it produces what we're to become. The other ministries would become its extensions. I'd open rest-centers, by neighbourhood, where the less fortunate could receive the care needed. These centers would aim towards social integration and not the exclusion of the poor. It would be financed by money received as a % of the profits gained by the local business and enterprises. I'd surround myself with collaborators whose first worry would be to serve the people and not the opposite.
7. Wisdom: fruit of humility and respect.
8. Music for me is like cooking: there are the big means and then there are the everyday meals. It's Bach for the contrasts, Beethoven to work by, and Mozart for the genius of the classics. These works stimulate the effort, the knowledge, and the spirit. And, I've discovered new wave music (Vangelis among others) that deeply and instantly sensitizes me.
9. Historical biographies.
10. One night, after leaving an exhibition, I was approached by a nurse who aided terminally-ill people in a Montréal hospital. She told me the following story with tears in her eyes: the previous evening, a female patient for whom she cared for a lot, died in her arms. In her last moments, the dying friend described this vision to her: two children holding hands under a stormy sky. This dying friend recognized herself-her and her husband at the age of 13. She told the nurse in a last whisper: "you'll recognize me also" and closed her eyes for ever leaving the nurse with her grief. Later while visiting the painting exhibition that I was participating in, she discovered one of my works entitled: "Amour naissant au so couchant" which depicted two young people as described by her deceased friend. When she saw this painting, she was nudged and physically felt the presence of her friend near her. She remembered her last words. After confining in me, she was suddenly overtaken with emotion, excused herself and left just as suddenly as she had appeared.

Alas! I've never seen her since. However, I hope that she recognized herself in these few lines and, who knows, my dear Mister Bruens, we may be able to find each other thanks to you.

Par : Louis Bruens
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