

Pauline Paquin Childhood Gardens

Seeing her works and hearing her voice over the telephone convinced me that Pauline Paquin liked cats and was not an old lady wearing her hair in a bun. What I did not yet know was that she would turn out to be a charming woman with an easy smile and eyes that tell as many tales as her paintings.

I met Pauline Paquin at her lovely home in Ste-Adèle. Its only drawback is that it doesn't have enough walls space to hang the works of the artists which she would like to collect.

Paquin left a steady job in the healthcare sector some fifteen years ago to dedicate herself to painting fulltime. Only five years earlier, when she was living in Piedmont, Québec, she had started painting with the benefit of the advice of her neighbour, landscape artist Marcel Fecteau.



P.T.Paquin "Faut pas faire peur aux oies" 30x40 Dig.10833

What stands out in Pauline Paquin's work is her mastery of the landscape, along with the quality of her perspective and harmony of her colours. Her landscapes would be interesting enough on their own; however, the artist adds children. "It's a way to add a touch of fantasy and colour", says Paquin.

Children, are not mere characters to this artist. Not only does she have three children of her own but she grew up in a large family where sharing her childhood toys and joys with brothers and sisters was normal. Her professional background led her to work with school children. Her love of childhood combined with her innate talent for drawing, plus an overactive imagination, grew into a passion that became her entire life.



P.T.Paquin "Il pleut ou il pleut pas?" 24x36 Dig.10824

Paquin believes that any subject may be painted; everything stimulates her creative mind. "I look at kids and there's a spark," she says with shining eyes. She constructs her decors by visiting old villages, especially those along the Saint Lawrence River, where she sketches and photographs streets and old buildings.

Although most of her paintings depict life in the countryside, Paquin does not avoid the urban scenes, preferring city lanes or alleys where kids usually play.

Children's fashions in magazines fire her imagination. The result : lively, bouncy, shimmering, frisky colours on the snow or a bright calm summer afternoon on the shore. In the magazines, she often finds the colourful clothing for her little devils or good girls on the canvas. She also borrows from her sons wardrobes. Sometimes, to their surprise, they see a youngster sporting one of their coats or vests in Mom's painting.

Pauline has been watching children playing, moving, posturing for a long time. Her experience and careful perception enable her to divine the child's soul. This perception lends freshness and movement to her paintings, so much so that one can almost hear the light chattering of the little girls pushing their dollies in strollers or the shrieks of joy of the boys on the skating rink.

Paquin stays open to influences without falling into facility. She is constantly on the look-out for new ideas, textures and technical supports for her painting. This on-going creative process enables her to avoid any commercial look that might prevent her artistic development.

The secret of Pauline Paquin's success : she balances discipline and fantasy perfectly. Not surprisingly, she has many collectors and fans in Canada, the United States, and elsewhere in the world. Of course, for Pauline Paquin the world is like a vast garden where everything becomes child's play.