

Jacques HÉBERT

Glass and color hasards.

ROBERT BERNIER



inspired, it does not bring anything. I think only of that, and even if I arrived to satisfactory results in my approach, I do not stop myself to a final manner to proceed; I constantly look for new avenues.

Currently, I incorporate gold leaves to my paintings. I have a pile of other ideas. That's the way I am : it moves! And then, of course, five years are little in the career of an artist. I am conscious of that, but at the same time I am approaching the mid-fifties, I had a full life, I have good background, and that is worth several production years according to me.

A thing is certain: it is necessary to see the art of this outstanding artist. His work is presented in permanence at the gallery Bernard DesRoches, Crescent street, in the heart of Montreal and believe me, it is worth the detour!

Jacques Hébert permanently at Galerie Bernard Desroches,
2125 Crescent Street, Montréal, Qc H3G 2C1
514.842.8648

The artistic expression is at the picture of life: it is sometimes standardized, taking a form that goes in a conventional direction, and it reveals itself sometimes surprising, borrowing new avenues. The story that I will tell you is the one of a man that had forgotten the pleasures that he obtained from painting during his studies. A man that, during his life, learned to master his torments, to feel the wind blow, to have a look at life with the less problems and possible discords... and to transform himself. Here is the key word: transformation. All changes, and not only we can't do anything, but by keeping our eyes wide open, we can draw energy and an astonishing invention spirit. This is what happened to Jacques Hébert, an artist little known in the universe of painting, although the things could change soon. "Five years ago, I went back to my sources, so much to the paint that to myself. Sometimes, it is necessary to do big detours to rediscover his way." Explain Jacques Hébert, a man that, when it is painting matter, becomes more active. "Today, I am independent. I can explore art day and night, and this is what I do : I work the whole time. It has been a couple of years since I am back to painting, but it is at the occasion of a trip in Italy, in Venise, at the time of an excursion to Murano (the world-wide capital of glass), that is when the trigger was done : a revelation, nothing less. From there I wanted to give another dimension to painting. I set off Murano with a head full of ideas and a big bag of Millfiori. This is where my true adventure begins. For those that have never seen my paintings, it is necessary to know that I paint with glass. I will attempt to summarize for you the creation process, my manner to proceed. I paint first an acrylic background, without any preconceived idea and in an abstract way.

Once this step is finished, I dispose the glass on the canvas accordingly to my background. At this stage, the glass is solid. I put my glass composition in an oven that heats the glass at 1450 degrees during a little less than half an hour, at 800 for 3 hours and at 75 for a day. Once the glass merged, I assemble my glass pieces while completing my composition on the painting. When my composition satisfies me, I put transparent resin between the pieces and under the glass, a delicate operation that asks a lot of skill and of technique because it is necessary to succeed the operation without having bubbles for example. In painting, there always is a technique, an approach, but there is no recipe, In any case not for creativity. What ever are the work methods and the employed means, if one is not

Translated from original article Parcours Art et Art de vivre, Les hazards du verre et de la couleur. By Robert Bernier (P. 55)



Jacques Hébert, *La Sirène*, 2003, technique mixte sur toile 70 cm x 90 cm