

# Featured Artist Louise Marion

[www.louisemarion.net](http://www.louisemarion.net)

Louise Marion is originally from Joliette in the Lanaudiere region of Quebec. She has always been attracted to the arts but, for over 25 years, she has been expressing the colourful and exciting life she experiences through her painting.

She pays attention to small things in everyday life but also loves large expanses and views. She uses these two factors to inspire her in her creation of canvases with simple shapes, vibrant colours and expressive interactions of these colours and shapes.

In addition to depicting Quebec life, she travels extensively and has created a series of canvases from a visit to Provence. She aims to do the same this winter, having recently visited Tuscany and returned with ideas for new works. She bases her works on observation and often takes her canvases outside to work directly from the scenes she sees, creating contrasts with blunt and spiky shapes as well as with complementary and contrasting colours.

Although she has made painting an important part of her life, she was originally interested in mathematics. She graduated from the Ecole HEC in Montreal in 1980 and, after her apprenticeship in accounting, she qualified for her CA in 1982. She then worked in accounting while at the same time studying art with experienced and well-known painters such as Georges Boka and Littorio del Signore. By 1990 she started focusing on oil painting while keeping her career in accounting going as well. By 2007 she found that having two careers left her with too little time for her art, so she decided to dedicate all her time to her painting.

Currently she combines her painting with her passion for travel. She and her partner, painter Yvon St-Aubin, travel to Charlevoix twice a year for "plein air" painting and workshops. She hopes to do more travelling in the future, possibly to see other parts of Europe and bring the different scenes and landscapes to her canvases.

While she is now focused on painting, her background in business influences her work and

Louise Marion paints in the colourist expressionist style but her work also shows influences of fauve and naive art. She takes inspiration from her surroundings, painting the street scenes of Quebec, the landscapes of Provence or ordinary scenes from daily life. Louise lives in Valleyfield.

allows her to organize her activities effectively. Her work has some of the preciseness of mathematics and some geometric regularity that combines well with the vivid colours.

From this basis, Louise intends to strike out, possibly toward more abstraction. She wants to continue to explore new facets of her work, venture into the unexpected and create new effects as she develops her style in her own original directions.





where time does not exist. Through her work we can discover her state of mind as well as her spirit, her energy and her vision of life simply pierce through with color, and a wonderful sense of chiaroscuro, in her world there are no basic grays.

She finds inspiration mainly through observation, watching people and the environment that surrounds them. Scenes of daily life are the subjects she most enjoys. Weather permitting, she loves to take her canvas outdoors, painting landscapes and street scenes of here and elsewhere, bathing in the location's atmosphere, capturing the quiet moments of pleasure that fill each day; bistros terraces, typical houses of Québec with streets bordered by twisting stairways, flower filled porches sharing their space with bicycles. All of these images constitute her world, which she inhabits with children playing and passersby going about their daily life.

Her style, colorist expressionism, is inspired by many artistic movement; fauvism, cloisonnism, pop art and naive art. Her brush strokes cover the canvas with a vibrant motion, sculpting light and movement. Her canvases exude life and space, alive with a surprising play of colors. Her vision is in constant evolution as is her work, her artistic spirit urges her to search out new environments and interesting surroundings to break the mold of conformity.

The **paintings on these two pages**, counterclockwise from top left are: "Petite sortie en famille au Parc régional des îles-de-Saint-Timothée," "La valse des champs," "Charme rural," "Amour, paix, espoir," "Moment ensoleillé," "Coup de foudre," and "Pleine lune au Mont Tremblant."





# painting

Louise Marion has a very distinctive style which becomes more apparent with her most recent works such as those from Provence. One way of exploring how she achieves that style and why her works are especially appealing is to look at the influences that guide her painting.

Louise describes her work as expressionist colourist with influences of fauve style, cloisonnism and naive art. Her expressionism lies in how she depicts the subjects she paints. They are mainly subjective images, guided by reality but painted in a way that reflects her

own vision. In her paintings, she expresses how she sees the world.

The colourist part of her style goes back to a 17th century debate on whether the line or the colour is more important in painting. The colourist attaches more importance to colour, but beyond that uses mainly colours rather than shading to differentiate shapes and objects. In Louise's paintings the colours make up a key part of the whole work, but it is also in the colours that she introduces additional influences.

The French word fauve can mean wild animal or wild beast, especially a feline, and it is used to describe an artistic style that broke the rules of the time, with wild brush strokes and vivid colours. Louise has a fauve influence in her choice of colours, with bright orange fields, purple clouds and vividly coloured houses. Her shapes, on the other hand, are more those of a naive artist, with simple perspectives, square and triangular walls, trees and plants with geometric shapes and doll-like people.

Finally Louise's paintings show an influence of cloisonnism which separates flat, coloured shapes with dark outlines. She also borrows from colour field painting, which is more often used in abstract works to achieve solid fields of vivid, flat colour.

In the painting at left for example, titled "L'appero est servi," all these influences take shape to create an eye-catching, attractive and appealing scene. The scene is not real - it is an expression of how Louise sees it or imagines it. There is an emphasis on colour, the interplay of colour and the contrasts. But the selection of the colours is adventurous and unexpected. The shapes are simple with just a hint of perspective here and there. The coloured shapes are flat with no little texture and, in places such as the flowers of the foreground, bright colours are outlined in dark shades.

What is interesting about Louise's work is that she can identify the influences that characterize her work and that it is to some extent these influences that help make her work attractive, appealing and original.







## Demarche Artistique

Louise Marion est attirée par les arts sous toutes ses formes mais depuis plus de 25 ans, c'est à travers la peinture qu'elle nous fait découvrir sa vision de la vie colorée et éclatante. L'appel de la vie artistique étant plus forte que tout, elle vit aujourd'hui de son art et a établi son atelier de création à Valleyfield. Elle partage désormais sa passion avec les peintres figuratifs contemporains du Québec qu'elle côtoie régulièrement.

Elle puise son inspiration dans les petits moments de détente de la vie de tous les jours. Elle parcourt les villes et les villages à la recherche de paysages et de scènes urbaines qu'elle enchâsse dans des compositions dans lesquelles elle fait éclater les couleurs et la lumière. Elle affectionne particulièrement les grands espaces inspirés de ses voyages en Europe, qu'elle transpose dans ses tableaux par une explosion de couleurs vives.

Son style coloriste expressionniste est inspiré de plusieurs courants artistiques; le fauvisme, le cloisonnisme et le pop art. Sa signature à l'acrylique se traduit par une juxtaposition surprenante des couleurs complémentaires. Sa palette de couleurs, audacieuse et intense, contribue à animer ses paysages et ses scènes de rues, et fascine par l'harmonie qui se dégage de l'agencement qui en est fait sur la toile. Ses tableaux dégagent des émotions de bonheur et respirent la joie de vivre!

## Artistic Philosophy

Painting is to this artist an all-encompassing passion

