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Joseph-Richard Veilleux RCA

Visionary Art Imprinting on Reality

Great Encounter

"The nomad, like the artist, will not on his journey unless he can envision a Promised Land." – Jacques Attali

Dictionaries define the word voyage as a way or course taken, an attempt or undertaking, an enterprise, an expedition. Symbolically, a voyage illustrates the path one must follow to acquire knowledge or reach a higher spiritual dimension. The pilgrim's voyage always brings him back to his point of departure. The soul's voyage expresses a search for happiness, truth and immortality. Physical movement infers the conquest of new territory. A voyage is a long journey of exploration and discovery.

All definitions befitting in fact the timeless works of painter **Joseph-Richard Veilleux** as intermediaries between the world of the spirit and the world of the living. Observe the precarious boats swaying through the tides, winds and waves! Watch the blue of the sea coalesce with the blue of the sky! See the passengers' worried faces as they try to protect themselves with fragile umbrellas against the soaring elements splitting the atmosphere!



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Defending fantastical painting is a freedom to which the most sensitive of artists are called to adhere. For the irrational osmosis between art and life, the lyrical effusion, the poetic imagination, the occult intuition, in short all forms of poetic contributions allow the transmission and expression of mystical and spiritual content. For a painter of the calibre of Joseph-Richard Veilleux, always seeking to reach his deepest inner self, it means assigning the highest possible enrichment to the value of symbols that testify to his core emotions much as the sailing passengers in his paintings.

For over 40 years, the artist has been attempting to define forms and universes of parallel territories in an effort to unravel their entanglements.

A man of heart

Joseph-Richard Veilleux displays phenomenal energy, unbounded generosity and altruism, contributing to perpetuate the effervescence of the field of visual arts. Displaying an open mind towards creation and appreciative of the powerful forces of renewal borne by emerging modes of expression, his merit has been recognized through his nomination as president of the **Royal Canadian Academy** of Arts in May of 2015. We should mention that since the Academy's foundation in 1880, he is the first francophone Québécois to hold the position. The RCA has a membership of 790 artists working in more than thirty visual arts and designing disciplines. Also of note is the fact that Veilleux has played a critical role as administrator of the **Canadian Museum of Fine Arts** in Ottawa from 2002 to 2005. Finally, in 2012 he received Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee medal for his implication among his peers and his community.



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Art and psychology

A painting workshop in France. Another at the Pallenberg Institute in Belgium. A master's degree in experimental psychology at Laval University, his thesis subject being:

Alternative rivalry and fusion of complementary contrasting colours. Then, during his 35 years artistic career, Joseph-Richard Veilleux simultaneously dedicated himself to the development of children well-being through art therapy. "Children have an uncanny creative ability. Art courses in school are essential. Art gives breath to a school and students get a sense of their own identity," explains the Beauceron artist.

"Going Elsewhere"

Acrylics, pigments, water for temperas, ink for runoffs, a saturation of colours and graceful designs which make figures come alive. Oil and gold dust may be added at times to accentuate the grandiosity of the vision. He is a Master of **Reiki** – REI in Japanese meaning universal as including matter, soul and spirit, while KI refers to the vital energy circulating inside us all. In short, "reiki" connects us with the universal energy of our own vital force. The artist is formal: "Before starting to paint, I must empty my mind through meditation to attain a sense of calm and serenity, to open myself to the cosmos, to channel the light and the telluric energy." His series of works entitled "Going Elsewhere" is meant to express a stroll among the energies of heaven and earth. We are privy to a wandering imagination and an artistic deployment imprinted with mysticism. For the artist, mysticism means being aware that something primordial is happening today on the planet Earth. And the artist only needs to welcome this natural energy to participate in the perpetual state of renewal life engenders.

Joseph-Richard Veilleux is a born explorer of multiple talents. His figures are searching for a passage, seeking a dreamlike perception that will generate in us an indescribable vision. The experience is purely playful and delightful!

Text by Michel Bois