

JOHANNE PION'S LANDSCAPE paintings in pastel

By Nathalie Paquin

Photos: Marushka Mikulas



Taking the plunge, learning, polishing her art

Her mother, who loved to work in pastel, was turned away from her art by illness. But the crayons would not long remain idle. Johanne had decided to try her hand at the work. And for this determined woman, starting meant making a commitment. Self-taught at first, she went on to learn and explore with a first teacher, and then with artist Mélissa Breault, who helped her improve and assert her technique. « I need a certain discipline, but I also need to do things my own way... This teacher respects my rhythm. Before, I was less patient; I was in a hurry to finish a painting so that I could start another. With Mélissa, I learned that it's pleasant to take your time. One needs time to ponder and polish... With her, I paint complex paintings. She pays attention to details and she knows how to teach me to be meticulous. »

There are panoramas, evocative landscapes, where one would like to lose oneself, escape from everyday life. The same is true of certain beautifully executed paintings that make us dream. The vibrant pastels of artist Johanne Pion fall into this category. Her recently revealed talent has already developed into a distinctive style.

While visual artists often say that they have been drawing or painting since they were children, this is not the case for Johanne, who admits that she was not very good at arts and crafts. But today, time has turned things around: thanks to effort and passion, her talent is evident, although she only started to draw in 2016.



The sea and Arizona: two sources of inspiration

The themes of Johanne's first works still inspire her, and she brings them to life brilliantly: seascapes and, above all, Arizona landscapes. The artist has always had a deep fondness for this American state she often visited with her parents in her childhood, and where she now likes to return as often as possible with her husband. Her work abounds with the reddish soil, the bright light and the lush flora of the region. And it was with great pride and gratitude that Johanne learned that her work was given a winning place, on three consecutive occasions, in a visual arts contest in Arizona. Once last year, then the following autumn, and again this spring. Well deserved recognition for this hardworking artist who spends at least ten hours a week at her easel.

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... Ongoing projects and planned exhibitions

And there is no shortage of projects. Johanne is awaiting confirmation for an exhibition called « Le photographe et l'artiste », to be held in the Gaspé Peninsula. In addition, a collective exhibition, in which several of her paintings signed « Jo-Anne » will be shown, will be held at Galerie Mp Tresart, in Durham (QC), next January. Right now, at the Galerie Au Cadre du village, located at 150, rue de Muy in Boucherville (QC), visitors can admire pastels by this artist, who says that she has « much left to explore, and to find how far she can take her art ». Farther and farther she goes...

