

The Buzz - August 10-2010

Contemporary art

Beyond lighthouses and landscapes at Pilar Shephard Gallery

There is no doubt that the landscape of PEI remain the most popular subject for many Island painters and art buyers. Red cliffs and shorelines, rolling hills, fishing ports and lighthouses abound.

At the Pilar Shephard Gallery in Charlottetown you can find landscapes and seascapes by professional artists such as Larry Horowitz and Neil Brown, but a visit to the gallery will also expose you to works of Canadian contemporary art.

Gallery owner Pilar Shephard and her husband

Bob Cumming share a passion for contemporary painting and sculpture. Works by Canadian artists such as Harold Town, Norval Morrisseau, Mary Pratt and Tom Forestall have been sold by the gallery since it opened in 1991. Art by well-known Europeans such as Picasso, L g re and Toulouse-Lautrec have also passed through the gallery.

In the long list of artists currently represented by the gallery are painters Jean Daniel Rohrer, Marlene Provencal, Ognian Zeckoff and Jocelyn Bloiun. Pilar explains that works by these artists are to be found in museums, high-end galleries and collections in Canada and around the world.

Sculpture by Paul Powning and by Inuit artists from Cape Dorset are also offered by the gallery. Pilar and Bob both emphasize that the Inuit sculpture must also be considered as contemporary Canadian art whereby traditional symbols are transformed into modern ideas.

Pilar Shephard was born in Barcelona, Spain (she cheers the results of the recent World Cup championship) where she was raised in a family which exposed her to art and culture as a matter of daily life.

Pilar came to live in Montreal, Canada and earned a Masters degree in art histo-



Il  tait une fois, oil on canvas, 30" x 30", Jocelyn Blouin

ry. She also has certified qualifications in art appraisal, museum studies and other areas of art academic study.

This background allows Pilar to knowledgeably seek out artists whose work meets the professional standards and artistic creativity which she desires—artists who have published catalogues and are already to be found in museums and credible collections. She will interview an artist to find those who are committed to pursuing their career and who want to “work together” with the gallery.

Pilar expects to have a personal response—“What the art tells me.” She also considers such aspects as colour, the composition, new techniques.

For Bob Cumming “the greatest property of contemporary art allows the viewer to look beyond the subject into the mind of the person who created it.”

Reflecting on the gallery’s upcoming twentieth anniversary, Bob says “The idea, then and now, to present quality contemporary Canadian art to the public, remains the mission of the gallery.” The public is welcome to visit the gallery to view the current results of this mission, at 82 Great George St, Charlottetown.