

JACQUES HEBERT

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Soul of glass.

Jacques Hébert
Permanently
at Rimawi Gallery
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and at
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Although our society is receptive to controversy and freedom of expression and at times, tolerates what is not 'normal', normal being standardized by sages, we must admit in Quebec, now more than ever, is proving itself to be quite open-minded on many facts. Furthermore, life, from what we think and what we say is not an easy adventure.

It always seems that those who are the most sensitive are the ones most affected by its harshness. They must find it within their inner strength a way to surmount difficulties and hardships as best they know how. By now, you must ask yourselves, what am I trying to say? Propelling into creativity saves the tormented soul and Jacques Hébert has been able to channel his emotions by fuelling his imagination and not letting it weigh him down.

Is it necessary to discuss an artist's painful past? Will it help us understand his art and his artistic expression? This may be so for Jacques Hébert because his past becomes an integral part of his work and extracting his innermost thoughts in its purest form dictates the originality of his art. During the years, as difficult as it may have been, he has been able to see things for what they are without the need to embellish. In his eyes there is no point in disguising reality. It is what it is. Most of us would rather shy away from adversity instead of facing it head on but Hébert confront all that is out of the ordinary. Speculation and curiosity lead him to study the characteristics of glass and discovered a new application. Through years of experimentation this innovative method has become his trademark. Isolating himself in his workshop, he fuses glass like an alchemist trying to convert coal into gold. Concentrated and lost in thought he maintains his creative force intact. Simply put, Jacques Hébert paints with glass and that is not trite. Some of you may find his artistic expression to be too new to classify, dating back only a few years. But, I will let you know that he possesses a large scope of experiences and has infinite tales to tell than most of us from which his art is extracted. Not to mention his desire and motivation to find his place in this dynamic world. It is evident that we notice an aesthetic and



Jacques Hébert, Iris bleu, technique mixte, 59,7 x 80 cm

artistic maturity within his artwork as we have seldom seen even in the most experienced artist in visual arts.

His technique and his approach have enormous potential even though there are just as many downfalls. The most threatening lies within its content, a delicate expressive quality, within an approach all its own. Its qualitative expression remains fundamental and keeps it from being classified as a decorative object. In essence, should it not be a painting because of its primary medium? Jacques Hébert satisfied himself for keeping the bar high and admits to his art as being a positive emotional charge and a vivid portrayal of his identity which encompasses the most exhausting memories. His artwork is like life, colorful and unexpected, which after time, begins to take its own shape. Glass is used but it is not glass art. A canvas is painted but it is not pictorial art. A three-dimensional aspect is inevitable but it is not a sculpture.

So what should it be? This is Jacques Hébert. 'I am self-made and an excessive person. I am street-smart. When I have a passion for something I do not use moderation. When I decide on something I dive into it with determination and focus and art entitles me to use my energy in a positive manner. For me, freedom is everything and my art allows me to express myself fully without boundaries. It allows me to enter a whole new fascinating adventure. Nine lives would not justify my sense to explore all the hues and flavors in this world. This world is my inner world.'

