

Paulette Melanson 1971

I'll call this my 'grey period' of art making. While attending Louis J. Robichaud high school in Shediac, NB. I completed two credits in visual arts and in 1971, the year of my high school graduation I participated in an exhibition in Bouctouche, NB where I sold a large abstract painting titled 'The Mysteries of Life'. It sold for \$50, a good chunk of money for a 17 year old at the time. The purchaser ended up writing a feature on the painting and about the young artist (me) in the daily provincial newspaper 'l'Évangéline'. I am amazed at what I said and how I was thinking. I'll translate the piece someday. Although visual arts were very close to my heart at the time, I decided to study science instead.

Below the article you will find some of my art works from 1971. Translation below.



**PAULETTE
MELANSON**

**Les Mystères
de la Vie**

visiteurs ont eu l'occasion d'admirer et d'apprécier le talent de nos jeunes artistes acadiens. Paulette Melanson de Scoudouc exposait quelques unes de ses créations: entre autres, "Les Mystères de la Vie", actuellement installée au Centre d'Animation Communautaire de St-Paul. Comme une marque d'appréciation pour nos artistes acadiens en herbe, rarement encouragés, j'ai demandé à Paulette d'exprimer en quelques lignes le sujet de son inspiration pour ceux qui s'intéressent à la peinture. Je vous communique ici le plus fidèlement possible l'âme de cette artiste.

"J'aime à penser et créer des formes imaginaires et surréalistes et ensuite les combiner ensemble pour faire une peinture telle que celle-ci par exemple où j'ai voulu peindre "Les Mystères de la Vie" dans lesquels nous vivons... Il y a toutes sortes de choses qui peuvent nous intéresser dans le vie, les choses les plus petites jusqu'aux choses et créatures les plus complexes. Le "design" est combiné avec le réel. Le temps qui passe est un élément important de la vie, chaque minute a son importance; le temps est précieux... La vitesse du temps, de tout, est incomparable. Dans la vie il y a du mystère, et on ne peut répondre à toutes les questions. Sur cette peinture, il est représenté par une goutte d'eau vacillante aux bouts des doigts de la main... Comment peut-elle rester là? C'est un mystère irréel, mais un mystère quand même. La complexité de la nature m'étonne toujours: ici, je la représente par l'oeil renfoncé dans une tête... Pour vivre, n'est-ce pas, il faut que chacun de nous ait une lumière qui l'éclaire afin de suivre le bon chemin, et c'est ce que je veux montrer ici au coin de cette peinture, en bas à droite... Enfin, que dirai-je encore? Il faut bien que je laisse quelque chose qui puisse aiguïser l'imagination des visiteurs qui viendront visiter votre Centre Communautaire... Je m'arrête ici en disant que la vitesse, la complexité de la vie me fascinent toujours. Oui, c'est ça! Voilà."

1971

PAULETTE MELANSON

The Mysteries of Life (1971)

Interested in drawing since her childhood, Paulette Melanson now does abstract painting in bright colors, sometimes with a certain shade of autumn gray ... Although she is from the "Pepsi Generation", Paulette has both feet on the ground and her head is not floating in the clouds. A graduate of Louis J. Robichaud high school in Shediac, this young 17-year-old artist will continue her studies at the Université de Moncton in Sciences with an option in Biology. It goes without saying that painting is close to her heart and she strongly hopes to evolve in this artistic field.

During an exhibition of works of art held at the Relance offices in Richibouctou during the Scallop festival, which took place on July 4, visitors had the opportunity to admire and appreciate the talent of our young Acadian artists. Paulette Melanson from Scoudouc exhibited some of her creations among others. "The Mysteries of Life", currently installed at the St-Paul Community Animation Center. As a mark of appreciation for our budding Acadian artists, rarely encouraged, I asked Paulette to express in a few lines the subject of her inspiration for those interested in painting. I communicate to you here as faithfully as possible the soul of this artist.

"I like to think and create imaginary and surreal shapes and then combine them together to do a painting such as this one for example where I wanted to paint 'The Mysteries of Life' in which we live ... There are all kinds of things that can interest us in life, the smallest things down to the most complex things and creatures. The 'design' 'is combined with the real. The passing of time is an important part of life, every minute is important. Time is precious ... The speed of time, of everything, is incomparable. In life there is mystery and you cannot answer all questions. In this painting, it is represented by a drop of water flickering at the tips of the fingers of the hand ... How can it stay there? It's an unreal mystery, but a mystery nonetheless. The complexity of nature always amazes me: here, I represent it by the eye recessed in a head ... To live, you see, each of us must have a light that illuminates us in order to follow the right path, and that's what I want to show here at the corner of this painting, at the bottom right... Finally, what will I say more? I must leave something that can sharpen the imagination of visitors who will come to visit your Community Center. I stop here by saying that the speed, the complexity of life always shapes me. Yes, that's it! "

L'Évangéline Newspaper, Moncton, NB, 1971

