

ROBERT MARCHESSAULT

GROW/RE-GROW

JULY 2021



FOSTER/WHITE GALLERY

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GROW/RE-GROW

During the COVID19 period I worked at painting images of trees that show evidence of resistance and adaptation to harsh forces. As the pandemic months wore on my daily studio practice tried to blend images, color, texture and marks that expressed, among many things, our long pandemic struggle.

For many years, my landscapes, and in particular my images of trees, have been a visual metaphor for overcoming difficulties and thriving in adversity. I am in wonder at how trees are able to take root and grow in spite of forces aligned against them. Wind, drought, rocks, pollution, pests and disease make survival a struggle. Yet, in the face of the misery; trees adapt, change, bend, re-grow and thrive.

My intent is to express a felt beauty through my paintings. In their efforts to emerge and grow beyond harsh conditions, trees display a special quality. I want my paintings to respond and echo, somehow, their struggles.

My technique is adaptive. I do not paint from photographs. Memories and experiences are the source I use to build up painted surfaces and tree forms. I rely heavily on drawing to create structure. There is a push pull process that informs my marks and choices of line and color. First attempts are not always successful. Sometimes after working for a while on a piece I use a random orbital sander to grind down the picture to a vague state from which I try again. I see a parallel here to trees that are crushed or damaged and yet return to their process of growth.

The paintings in this exhibition are made using base layers of acrylic colors. Top layer details are done using oil paint and a final clear coat of Gamvar varnish completes the work. The painting surfaces are typically quarter inch plywood strapped using pine, carpenter's glue is used for assembly without nails. Gesso is used to prepare the surface for painting.

Montechiaro
oil and acrylic on panel
48 x 36 inches



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Jezu
oil and acrylic on canvas
30 x 30 inches



Juniperus
oil and acrylic on panel
48 x 48 inches

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Le Couple
oil and acrylic on canvas
24 x 18 inches



Khios
oil and acrylic on panel
40 x 40 inches

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Tascat
oil and acrylic on panel
48 x 36 inches



Purpuri
oil and acrylic on panel
60 x 48 inches

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Arcs
oil and acrylic on canvas
52 x 40 inches

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Bijou
oil and acrylic on canvas
24 x 24 inches

ROBERT MARCHESSAULT

Education

- 1997 MA, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, ON
- 1978 BFA, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
- 1975 Visual Arts Diploma, Dawson College, Montreal, QC

Solo Exhibitions

- 2021 'Grow/Re-Grow,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2018 'The Lorax Dreams,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2016 'New Works Now,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2016 'Trees!,' Littlejohn Contemporary, New York, NY
- 2015 'Ambient Trees,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
- 2014 'Forest for the Trees,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 'Eleganza,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
- 2013 'Ocean Palms,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
- 2012 'Eleganza,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
- 2011 McLarry Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM
Tanner Hill Gallery, Chatanooga, TN
McLarry Fine Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 2010 'Tuju Bella,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
Tanner Hill Galleries, Atlanta, GA
- 2009 'Arboramici,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
'A Quiet Light,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
'Harvest of Light,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON

2008	'New Paintings,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC Gallerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC
2007	Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
2006	'Arboretum,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA 'il mistero dell'arbero,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
2005	'Journeys and Visions,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
2004	Gallerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, QC 'Suspended Memories,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
2003	Michael Gibson Gallery, London, ON Vanderleelie Gallery, Edmonton, AB 'Recent Effort,' Bau-Xi, Vancouver, BC
2003	Gail Harvey, Los Angeles, CA
2002	'New Paintings,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON Gail Harvey, Los Angeles, CA
2001	Vanderleelie Gallery, Edmonton, AB 'New Paintings,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC Gail Harvey Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
2000	'North – South,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
1999	Gail Harvey Gallery, Los Angeles, CA Michael Gibson Gallery, London, ON
1998-1997	'Will I Dream,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
1996	Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC Art Gallery of Newfoundland & Labrador, St. John's, NL Gotlands Konstmuseum, Sweden
1995-1988	Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
1995	University of Toronto, Justina Barnicke Gallery, Toronto, ON
1994	Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
1991	University of Waterloo Art Gallery, Waterloo, ON
1986-1979	Gadatsy Gallery, Toronto, ON
1981	Concordia University Art Gallery, Montreal, QC Burlington Cultural Centre, Burlington, ON Gallery Brant, Oakville, ON

Selected Group Exhibitions

2019	'New Works,' Wallace Gallery, Calgary, AB
2018	'Method,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON 'Resolution,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
2017	'Clouds,' Mason Fine Art, Atlanta, GA '30 Years,' Wallace Gallery, Calgary, AB
2016	The Brain Project, Toronto, ON 'From Forest, Sea and Sky,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC 'Director's Selection,' Littlejohn Contemporary, New York, NY Mason Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
2014	Hunter Kirkland Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM
2012	'Found in Translation: Highlights from the Permanent Collection,' McLaren Art Centre, Barrie, ON
2010	'Social Consciousness in Canadian Art,' Hart House, Toronto, ON
2009	'Arboreal,' Durham Public Art Gallery, Durham, ON
2007	'Small Works,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA and Vancouver, BC
2004	'Collection of Small Works,' Foster/White Gallery, Seattle, WA
2002	'Social Consciousness in Canadian Art,' Hart House, Toronto, ON
2001	'Three Painters in the Mojave,' Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA
2000	'2000 Bugs,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
1998	'Working Drawings, Finished Works,' Bau-Xi Gallery Toronto, ON
1996	'Destinations,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Vancouver, BC
1995	'Hawksbridge & Marchessault,' Tom Thomson Memorial Gallery, Owen Sound, ON 'Contemporary Landscapes,' Tom Thomson Memorial Gallery, Owen Sound, ON
1993	'Landscape Painters,' Bau-Xi Gallery, Toronto, ON
1990	'View Points,' MacDonald Stewart Gallery, Guelph, ON
1988	'Landscapes On Paper,' Gadasty Gallery, Toronto, ON
1986	'Hagan, Hartman, Cullen & Marchessault,' Gadasty Gallery, Toronto, ON
1984	Faculty Exhibitions, Georgian College, Barrie, ON; also 1983
1982	Group Painting Show, Robert McLaughlin Art Gallery, Oshawa, ON
1979	'Cullen & Marchessault,' Gairloch Gallery, Oakville, ON
1979-1978	Juried Group Exhibition, Burlington Cultural Centre, Burlington, ON
1978	Four Person Exhibition, Concordia University Art Gallery

Selected Awards and Grants

2009	McGraw-Hill Publishers Award, for best session at conference for Teaching and Learning held in Toronto, Ontario
2000	Canada Council, Travel Grant
1999	Ontario Arts Council, Mid-Career Individual \$5K Grant
1992	Brucebo Foundation, Sweden, Exhibition Funding
1990	Canadian Scandinavian Foundation, Brucebo Scholarship
1978	Elizabeth T. Greenshields, Painting Grant

Selected Press and Publications

2018	Vyhnak, Carola, 'Sometimes the architecture is built to accent the artwork,' Toronto Star, October 18
2014	Rooney, E. Ashley and Margery Goldberg, 'Green Art: Trees, Leaves, and Roots,' Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.
2011	Hampson, Sarah, 'Into the Woods: the Enduring Power of Trees,' Globe & Mail, August 13, p. 3
2003	Greenshields, Elizabeth, Grantees News, Volume 8, Issue 2, Oct. 9, 2003
2001	Graham, Adam, 'Painting With PASTA,' Desert Sun (Palm Springs), Section: Desert Today, August 29
2000	'Gallery exposes 2000 bugs,' Toronto Star, Jan 6, pg. G5
1999	Coulson, Sandra, 'Lost in Landscapes,' London Free Press, Sec D, April 18, pg. 1
1998	Hanna, Deirdre, 'Working drawings produce finished works,' Now Magazine, August 7
1995	Art Bulletin, No. 61 Vol.12, Feb/Mar, ISSN 0790-5858, pg.26

Selected Collections

20th Century Fox
360 Degrees Networks
Ascona Management Inc.
Adalstein Brown
Atari
Bank of Montreal
Bell Canada
Big Firm II Productions Ltd
Canada Packers
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Catalysis Group
CBC Toronto
Dean Witter, New York
Deloitte Haskins & Sels
Hotel Inter-Continental
Hudson's Bay Co.
Imperial Oil
Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery
Lee Co.
Lee, Burkhardt & Liu Architects, Santa Monica, CA
London Drugs
LYV Steel, Cleveland
MacLean, Forstrom & Jackson, Vancouver, BC
Manulife Financial
Marathon Realty Co. Ltd.
MacLaren Art Centre, Barrie
McLean Hunter

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