



Coloring the Art Scene: Yvan Genest and Jean-Gabriel Lambert

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NEWSPAPER

# Yvan Genest and Jean-Gabriel Lambert: Coloring the Art Scene



**Y**van Genest and Jean Gabriel Lambert, two Montreal artists who met while working and showing in Puerto Vallarta, are coloring the art scene. They discovered they share many things like a place of origin, a background in performing arts, and a successful art career. They also share a love of color, which manifests in vibrant paintings they exhibit at Galleria Dante, the gallery that represents them both. Although different in style, both their body of work vibrates with color.

Yvan is a very interesting, unpretentious, and easy going gentleman. When talking with him it becomes clear that painting is not simply something he does; it is his way of being in the world - a way of communicating what he

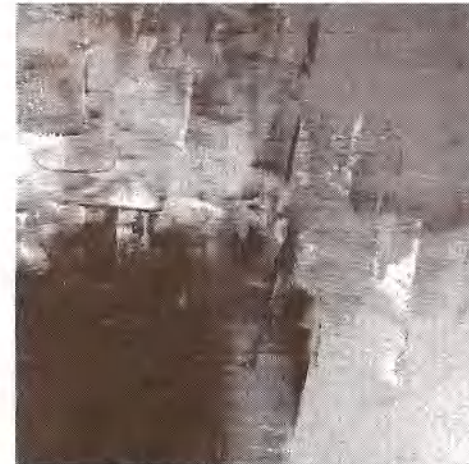
experiences in an effort to reach out and touch us in a profound way. His experiences with different cities, other people and their customs are reflected in his paintings - airplanes, fish, trips, people. Faces take on a special importance in Genest's works, whether it be devils, kings or cardinals; that is where the expressions of the human soul manifest and define themselves. In Mexico, he is particularly inspired by the freedom he finds in Mexican crafts and the colorful life here.

He will tell you that he was greatly influenced by expressionism of different periods, such as Francis Bacon, Picasso, Satin and Chagall. Yvan has an incredible sense for color. His paintings are bright and cheerful, all combined with sense of freedom and fun. Even if you do not understand them, you want to see more of his paintings. In Paris, one writer described Yvan's work as "... spicy, very hot taste that lingers in your head, your heart and your soul, even past the first exciting bite."

Lately, Yvan has been painting a series of canvases on hands, which represent good luck among the nomad peoples of Northern Africa. His reencounter with this symbol came when a fire consumed his place in Montreal. When salvaging the remains of the fire, he came across this little silver hand he had been given while living in Africa. His most recent production revolves around this

symbol, maybe due to a random encounter, maybe as part of his continuous search which, upon completion of a cycle, drives him to go back to figuration, with a new, deeper meaning, the symbol. Hands first appeared in an exhibition in Los Angeles, and Yvan has continued working on the subject while in Puerto Vallarta.

Jean-Gabriel Lambert is busy with new painting projects. Last October he presented 25 new paintings in an exhibition at the gallery that represents him in Old Montreal, and right before leaving for Puerto Vallarta for the season with a new collection, he signed a contract with a new agent in Toronto.



To Jean-Gabriel this represents the beginning of a new adventure, since he will be exhibiting in Toronto for the first time ever. After the season in Puerto Vallarta he will start painting

his new collection for a show in Toronto next fall.

Jean-Gabriel recently spent a few days in Mexico City on vacation, and confirmed his love of travel and big cities. He has made it his new project to go back to Mexico City for a longer period, but in the meantime he is working on more paintings here in Puerto Vallarta, his special place of inspiration, to show during the season. At the same time, he is already working on a new show coming up in his Old Montreal gallery next summer. Also, while in Puerto Vallarta, Jean-Gabriel is working on several commissions of large format paintings for clients in Montreal and Toronto, which means he'll probably not have the time to finish other commissions for clients in Puerto Vallarta, therefore those will be completed in Montreal, then shipped back to Puerto Vallarta, or the artist himself will have to travel with them.

Another special project Jean Gabriel Lambert envisions is to go back to Paris, where he used to go regularly in the '80s and '90s, and to exhibit in a gallery there. The first step he'll take towards this project is to go to Paris on vacation, visit friends there after 15 years, and probably take a trip to Barcelona, in Spain, too.

*Galleria Dante*  
"Meet the Artists Night"