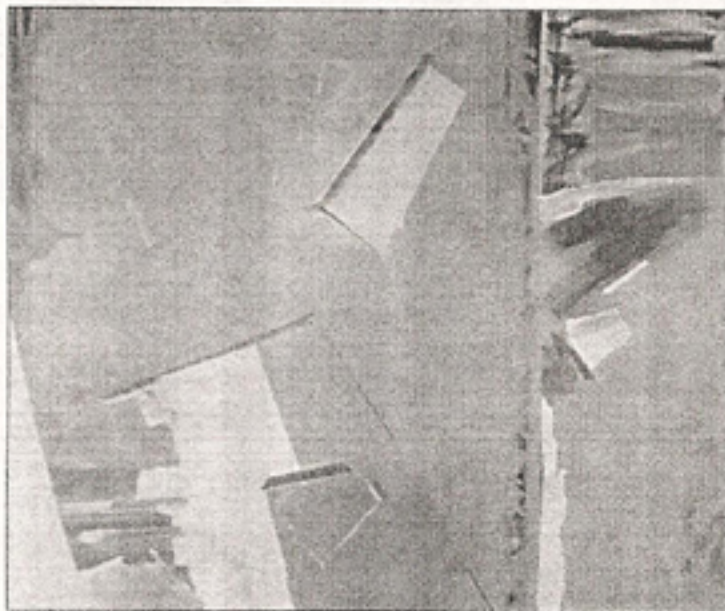


Luhovy rhapsodizes summer skies in latest AbEx show



Laryssa Luhovy's 'The Letter she never sent'

Marilynn Vanderstey

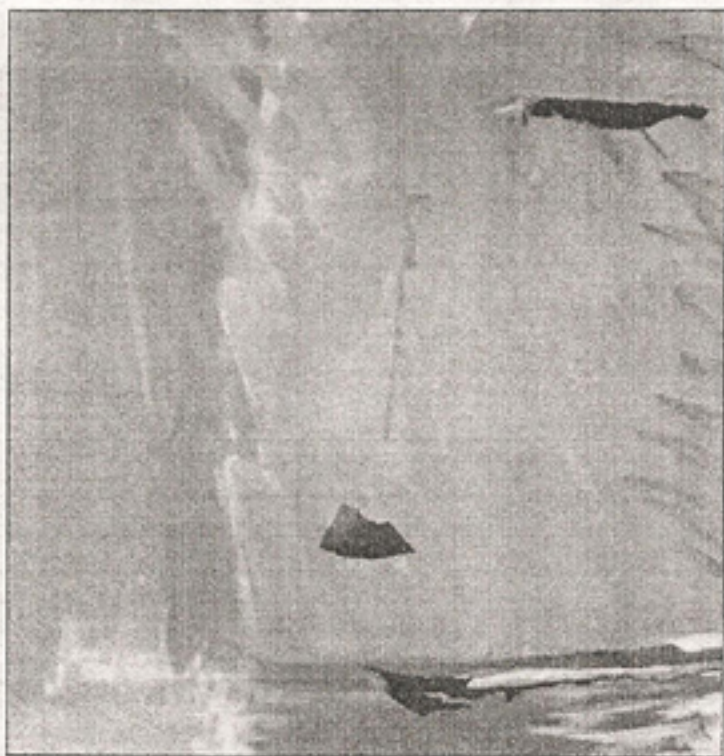
Bright, vibrant, free. Those words resonate through Laryssa Luhovy's exhibition, *Summer Sky*, which opens with a vernissage tonight at l'Espace Parcours.

The 21 large canvases reflect the Westmount artist's love of life, colour and, of course, skies, which feature predominantly in so many of her

abstract works.

Luhovy starts each painting with no preconceived ideas, but rather with a mood, and a sense of a colour scheme that can change as the work develops. She works with variations of primary colours to create bold, bright abstract paintings that tell the stories of her life, her extensive travels, her emotions, her love of nature, and events.

The highlights of the exhibition are her bright beautiful summer skies, her



'La vie est un songe'

celebrations of life. *Ciel d'ete* features those bright blue skies and the greens of grass and trees. *14 juillet* and *La distance est relative* also capture those scenes.

"The letter she never sent" and "The letter she wrote" are two pieces that reflect her memories of travels in Greece, particularly of the sea and the skies. The artist loves using blues, and variations of that color feature predominantly in works that the viewer might like to think tell a story, but in reality are titled after the work is completed. The stories they do tell, however, are the memories of her life. "My work is always autobiographical," she says. "It is always about memories."

Luhovy is a global traveler and her experiences are the subject of many of her works. *Priesland*, *Champs de Mers* and *Le songe de Hong Kong* tell stories of those travels. Luhovy often paints large empty spaces accented with colours into her works that give them a certain feeling of lightness, of air. Sometimes she juxtaposes rectangular shapes into them, which give them a collage effect. *Life is light as a feather* features a large white expanse accented with a few lines and features a rectangular shape almost floating in the space.

Her work is largely spiritual and ethereal. "When I work on my paintings, it is like a form of meditation for me," she said. A devoted gardener, Luhovy lives her life as she does her art, surrounding herself with nature, seeing life in everything she touches. That attention to life is in her work. As I continue to paint and meditate, it is almost as if I am creating something transcendental.

Carmina Burana was painted when one of her family members was ill and that pain is sensed through her use of dark space. As I look back on that work, she says, I realize it could be called *dark angel* because it tells the story of a time that was so dark for me. It scares me.

'Ciel d'ete' continues at l'Espace Parcours, 120 Bate Road, Suite 101, in Town of Mount Royal until June 25.

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