



Réal Fournier



I AM THE ASCENSION AND LIFE, oil, 48 x 96 in.

The art and life of painter Real Fournier is a story of dreams realized and a childhood relived for all to enjoy.

Fournier shocked his colleagues on the day he began his career as a primary school teacher. "I'm going to teach for 10 years" he told them "and then I am going to commit myself to painting full time."

The years passed by quickly but Fournier never gave up on his dream. One experience in particular that reinforced his determination to paint was strengthened by a dream. In his sleep he saw himself as a fourteen-year-old boy who gave the adult he had become a gift of



PEACE IN MY HEART, oil, 24 x 30 in.



MUSICIANS HAVE WINGS, oil, 40 x 48 in.

three memorable items. A mechanical folktale character, a golden crown, and most importantly a sketchbook filled with paintings. The fourteen-year-old told Fournier still in his dream, that the paintings were those he was destined to create in the years to come.

Fournier took his dream very seriously. He gave up teaching in favour of full time painting. He was helped and strengthened in that decision by four individuals to whom, he says, he will always be grateful for having made him a better man and a better artist.

The first of the four was Yvon Desgagne. He was followed by the famous Quebec duo of Charlotte and Hervé, whose talent as painters had a direct

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, oil, 30 x 40 in.



influence on him. Then there was John Webster, his agent and owner of a gallery in Calgary who wanted him to move there, to the extent of offering him his own studio on the gallery premises. Fournier considered it a gift from God. He moved West and there he is now, with his love Lynda, free to lead the life he had always wanted.

In 1998, with Lynda, he published a book for children, *The Ravens and the Scarecrow*, which deals with the issue of prejudice. Fournier illustrated the story with eight paintings.

When he first moved to Calgary, the small town boy from rural Temiscamingue, Quebec, was shocked by the plight of the homeless people living on the streets. A chance meeting with a homeless man touched Fournier so deeply that it led to another book soon to be published.

The uniqueness of Fournier's works is the spirit of his dreams he expresses on both large and small canvases. His images tell the stories of what he has experienced and where he has been. His style isn't realistic but rather a form of visual poetry that he paints in symbols and metaphors. **I**

Justine Germain



THE MIGHTY SNOWMAN, oil, 30 x 40 in.

Réal Fournier is represented by the following galleries : *Galerie d'art Charlotte et Hervé*, Deux-Montagnes; *Galerie d'art Yvon Desgagnés*, Baie-St-Paul; Webster Gallery, Calgary; *Warehouse Artwork*, Winnipeg; *The Renaissance Gallery*, Northport; *Galerie Shayne*, Montréal; *Le Chien d'Or*, Québec; *La Fontaine des Arts*, Rouyn-Noranda. He is listed in *The Biennial Guide to Canadian Artists in Galleries* published by MAGAZIN'ART.



Oil painting by Silvia Armeni

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