



Jean Claude Roy was born in Rochefort-sur-Mer, on the west coast of France, in 1948. He knew from the age of seven that he wanted to be an artist, and was encouraged by his maternal grandfather. This man, a farmer of modest means, occasionally bought paintings at auctions, and had encouraged a German prisoner of war to paint the interior of his house with murals. Jean Claude recalls attending the early-morning wholesale fruit markets with his grandfather, making his first "sculpture" from the colored tissue papers used to wrap apples and oranges. At school, he drew during all his classes, specializing in Mickey Mouse.

At the age of 16, after attending technical lycée, Jean Claude studied to enter the merchant marine, and took his first job at seventeen as an apprentice electrician on a French cable-repair boat. There followed five years at sea, with a large amount of time spent in port in St John's, Newfoundland, Canada, where his interest in drawing and painting turned to landscape.

In 1971 he emigrated to Newfoundland, Canada, and for the next ten years worked as a marine electrician by day, and painted during the evenings and weekends. He attended art classes for a total of two sessions, because he didn't like being told what to do. By 1973 he was selling works in local galleries, and he had his first solo

exhibition in 1974. There followed two exhibitions in the public gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador, and representation in commercial galleries in other Canadian cities.

In 1982, he returned to France; he was eager to build his career as an artist in France, and at this time he made the decision to live from the proceeds of



his art. Apart from painting, he renovated the stone farmhouse in which he has grown up, and tended a large garden and orchard. His career in France developed gradually, with exhibitions and representation in local galleries. He supplemented his income by teaching in local art schools, and for several years offered "painting holidays" for North Americans at his house.

He maintained his ties with Newfoundland, however, and returned every few years to paint and exhibit. In 1994 he established a studio near St John's, and since that time has divided his time between his two homes in France and Newfoundland.

He describes his style as "expressionist - colourist"; he works most frequently with oils and a palette knife, and in recent years his paintings have become larger and more densely colored. Since the late 1980's, a characteristic of his landscapes has been the presence of the sun; this followed a discovery that by putting the sun – initially a black sun – in the sky, it added light to the picture, and it has now come to form an important part of the composition of each work.

He is a prolific artist by any measure. He says his work is his diary: he paints every day, and each painting is a record of that day. He also works in acrylic and watercolour, and does some sculpture as well. He loves working with the light-colored stone of his part of France, and the stone walls he has built around his property are works of art in themselves, with crannies for nesting birds, sculptures made from the tools of his former trade, and fruit trees which he grafts and trains along the walls.

Jean Claude's paintings are found in many private and public collections in North America and Europe, and he is represented by galleries in Canada, the United States and France.

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