

Marie-Josée Ouellet



Marie-Josée Ouellet combines the Naive with the cartoon colorist and the stage producer. Each of her paintings tells a short imaginary story. Her cafes are, as in real life, places where people pass through, places where anything is possible and where the improbable can happen just as easily, meeting places, waiting places. They are her stage, which she fills with characters and, to our surprise, we suddenly discover in the features of a customer or waiter the familiar traits of Robert Charlebois, Woody Allen or Agatha Christie's Miss Marple, a well-known Japanese film producer or Marilyn Monroe. *"I paint what I love most - the European life-style and the cinema."*

Her style evokes famous Parisian shop window fronts of André Renoux but varies according to her subject: almost graphic when she is depicting the stark simplicity of a Greek scene, neo-impressionistic when she is illustrating the smoky atmosphere of a literary café reminiscent of Toulouse-Lautrec.

Marie-Josée Ouellet goes beyond the theme of the Café-Bistro. Behind her paintings, behind the decor, we can feel the deep-rooted reasons for the city dweller's love for this locale, so complete, alternately magical or harsh, cold or flamboyant, indispensable for the equilibrium of a city.

The atmosphere in Marie-Josée Ouellet's paintings invites your participation. Stop for a while as the story unfolds and enjoy. Come back for another visit and discover even more woven into each painting.



134 Miss Marple in Paris / monotype / \$325 / to be auctioned on Sunday, April 28th ▶

