

great pastels

W. TRUMAN HOSNER ON
HORACE CHAMPAGNE



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. TRUMAN HOSNER

In *The Leaves of October* (16x20), by Horace Champagne, the crisp air snaps through with clarity. One discovers poetry in the movement of leaves as they float off into currents of wind. It's fascinating how the artist uses a first snow to contrast the movement—like a pastoral passage from a great symphony—giving the soul a place to rest.

THE RUSSIANS SAY, “LEAVE YOU ON THE CANVAS.” There’s no other painter I know who accomplishes this better than Canadian artist Horace Champagne. My first introduction to the artist’s work was at the 2004 exhibition of the Pastel Society of Eastern Canada (PSEC). It so impressed me that I thought had he been born earlier, there might have been a Canadian Group of Eight, instead of Seven.

In 2012, I visited his home and studio on Île d’Orléans, a charming

island that sits in the middle of the Saint Lawrence River just beyond Quebec City. Out of nearly 100 works that he shared with me, I recognized instantly that *The Leaves of October* was the piece I wanted for my personal collection. The pastel is pure color—color so chromatic that one might think it too extravagant, an easy mistake until you’ve experienced the Canada in which he lives. That’s when you discover his color is a truth more real than reality itself.

In his work, Champagne gives us a beautiful mixture of reality and personality. His painting transports us from the present to that magical place we call art. 🍷

The PSEC will honor Champagne as part of its 20th anniversary celebration with a retrospective at its juried exhibition in Montreal, opening October 30.

W. TRUMAN HOSNER (wtrumanhosner.com) is an award-winning artist, well-known for his plein air figure and landscape paintings.