

Charles Leblanc

Born in Valleyfield, Québec, with paintbrush in hand, - or almost: his father was a lettering artist – Charles Leblanc began painting at the age of 16.

After graduating in graphic design, he started his career in the ad business as a layout man and illustrator. Leblanc soon made a name for himself and set up his own graphic arts studio. Thirty years later, his expertise as an art director, which has often been rewarded by his peers, prompts him to unleash at last his lifelong passion for painting.





Leblanc on fire (2010)

In 2010. after a lunch with his childhood friend Jacques Rousse, their talk motivates Leblanc to realize his dream, painting professionally. From that moment on, the rage for painting allowed him to abandon his computers for the brushes, oil paint and canvas.

This trigger of a passion, suppressed for too long, reveals to us an artist in full possession of his talents. The energy of the brushstroke, the bright colors and the graphic mastery of Charles Leblanc combine brilliantly throughout the themes he addresses in his works.



CHARLES LEBLANC OIL ON CANVAS



From urban scene to lavender fields, from irises to Japanese koi, from the cult of objects to celebrities portraits, from festive to contemplative, from figurative to abstraction, from fast pace life to zen moments, from humans to machines, Leblanc's series, question us about the past, present or future.





CHARLES LEBLANC OIL ON CANVAS





Uncovering Camouflage, Unveiling Truth

There are two facets to the notion of identity: one in regards to the self and the other in regards to society. In art, like in many other disciplines, such differentiations often go hand and hand, as an artist's own identity is constantly shaped by his social surroundings.

In Hidden Face, Charles Leblanc clings to the first definition: that of an internal identity. In this latest series of work by the artist, Leblanc experiments with a new visual language through depiction of veiled Muslim women, a much-heated subject matter certainly familiar to the world of contemporary art.

Charles Leblanc is an artist faithful to his feelings. Conventions aside, Leblanc takes on an atypical path to art-making, guided by nothing else than his own intuition and desire to uncover the fear of self-revelation. By exploring the social reality of veiled women, Leblanc draws an analogy to the universal tendency of human beings to remain behind a protective layer. With this delicate subject, Leblanc is not interested in passing political judgment, nor does he attempt at negotiating a national or religious identity for women.



FC010 (40 x 60 in.)

Instead, he is seeking an interior recognition, a hidden talent or dream as re-affirmation of the self.

Above all, Hidden Face offers self-reflection. In fact, the iconic burka represent a metaphor to the internal struggle lived by the artist, and conversely, by each of us. With vibrant colors and quick brushstrokes, abstract yet calculated, Leblanc attributes a new dimension to these women by focusing on their individuality despite physical uniformity and gender. A devotee of quick execution, Leblanc embarks on a lyrical journey with each canvas, starting from concrete outlines and slowly moving towards complete abstraction.

With sound background in graphic design and a consuming passion for car engineering, Leblanc brings an unprecedented, mechanical approach to his paintings, both in composition and spirit, which allows the artist to take apart the various constituents and get to the very substructure of things.

As such, the series Hidden Face calls for a reflection of a universal truth inherited in each human being, though for which many feel reluctant to. It then follows that such a proposition would be capable of carrying the audience onto a higher degree of reflection, discarding the camouflage and uncovering their veiled selves.

























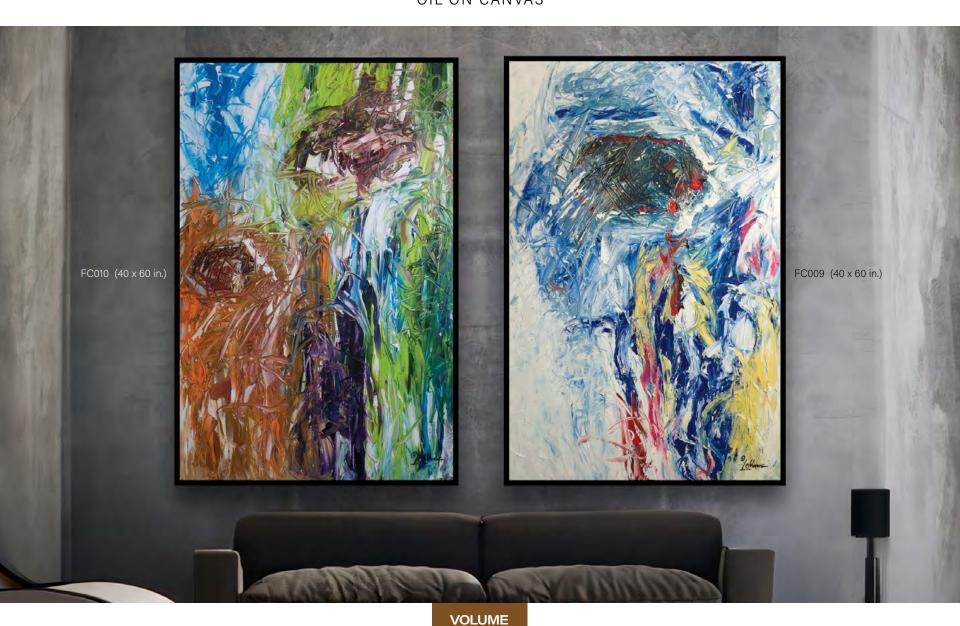




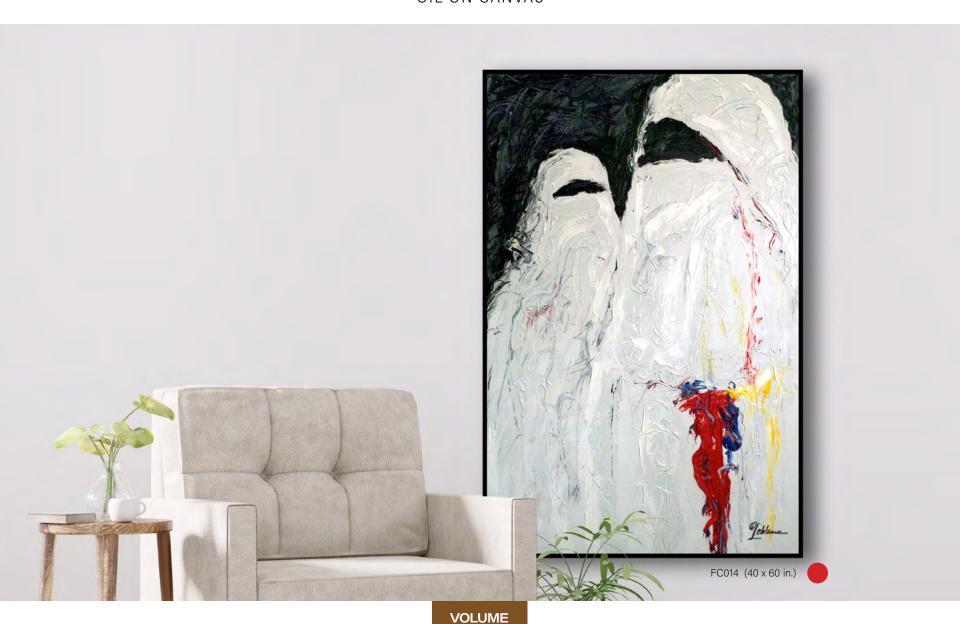






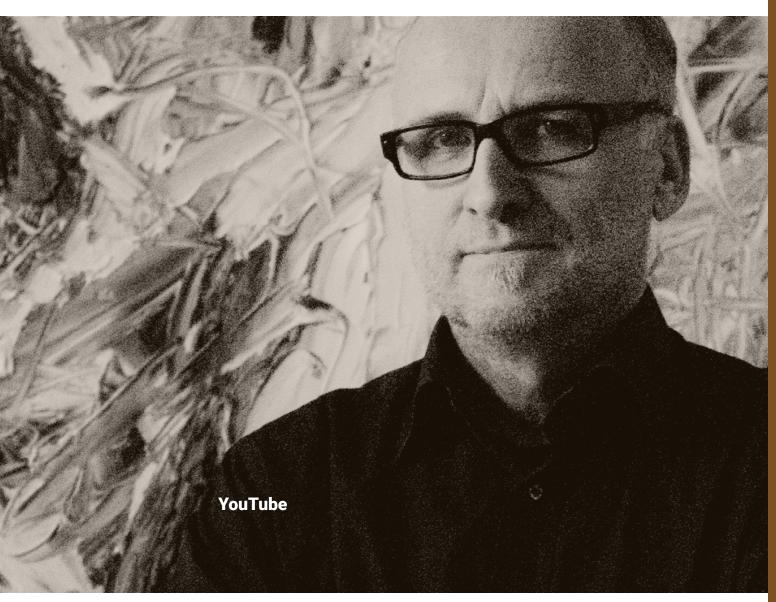












2011

Solo Exhibition Archives nationales du Québec (Montréal)

2012

Solo Exhibition Galerie Nowhere (Montréal)

2012

Solo Exhibition Swatow Art Centre (Montréal)

2013

Solo Exhibition ArtExpo (New York)

2014

Solo Exhibition Spectrum (Miami)

2018

Solo Exhibition Galerie 5432 (Mile-End, Montréal)

2019

Solo Exhibition Galerie 5432 (Mile-End, Montréal)

2021

Group Exhibition, Festival des arts de Valleyfield (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield)

2022

Group Exhibition, Festival des arts de Valleyfield (Salaberry-de-Valleyfield)

2023

Solo Exhibition Édifice Laurier-Léger, (Les Coteaux, Qc)

2024

Solo Exhibition Édifice Laurier-Léger, (Les Coteaux, Qc)

The marked red dots paintings are in private collections in France, Switzerland, United States, Taiwan and Canada.