

BELLEMARE



With Open Eyes

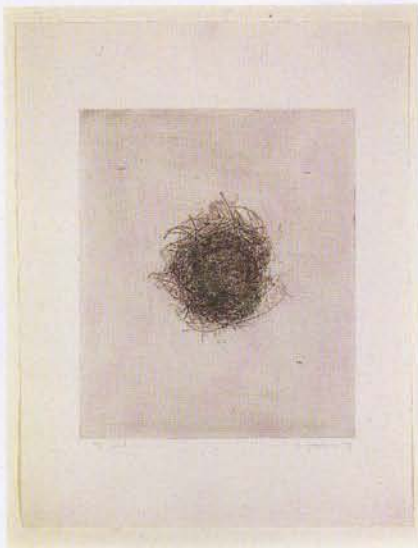
ROBERT BERNIER

It is never easy to write about someone else – or about oneself for that matter. This is true for many different reasons, the principal one being that no matter what we do and no matter what we think, we will only be able to define but a fragment of our subject; it is impossible to characterize an entire being. And this is without taking into account the fact that human beings are immensely complex creatures. Even the most extraverted individual has their secrets; even the most confident among us has doubts and fears... Therefore, to believe that our universe can be reduced to black and white or to think that men and women can be defined by a single trait is an unfortunate presumption. And it is a conjecture which I do not accept as being true.

Take Marc Bellemare for example, a man who leads a very successful life. This reputed lawyer has an abundance of clients and perpetually seeks out complex cases which will challenge and stimulate him. For more than twenty-five years, Marc Bellemare has been defending victims of road and work related accidents and protecting them from system abuses. Those who have ever had to deal with bureaucracies such as the SAAQ and the CSST know what I am talking about. Before this accomplished lawyer made this field his battleground in 1979, this area of law was essentially uncharted territories. David against Goliath ! Marc Bellemare is financially independent and highly regarded by his peers, is the ex-minister of Justice and a favorite for the position of mayor of Quebec. He could have stopped right here and had a successful and fulfilling

life. Only, this was not enough. Something fundamental, even vital, would have been missing. This workaholic is also passionate about life in all its shapes and forms. His curiosity is absolute, as are his professional and social responsibilities. It is for

this reason that culture became his life preserver, or rather his oxygen tank in the too often autocratic world in which he evolved. Even a well-balanced professional life cannot satisfy all your wants and dreams. What's more is that work is often incapable of revealing the profound meaning of things. Truth resides elsewhere, somewhere deep within ourselves, or paradoxically, all around us. You only need to fully open your eyes and you mind. Culture – music, painting, and the visual arts as a whole – allow Marc Bellemare to search within himself and others, to question life, and to learn about all that makes up his universe. This is a necessary journey for all those who truly wish to be self-actualized. ➤



Betty Goodwin, Nid, no1, 1973
Eau-forte au vernis mou, 1/5, 75,5 x 60,3
Dépôt de la collection Marc Bellemare

