

## Belgium



**Francine Gravel. Born in 1944.**

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Francine Gravel's fantastical scenes of music, joy, and celebration draw from a variety of sources, including mythology, theater, and puppetry. The paintings often teeter towards the surreal, with a fairy-tale vibrance that takes the viewer on a journey through the imagination and dreams of society's inner-child. It is clear that music plays a large role in the artist's life, not only in the dancers and musicians featured

in her pieces, but in their construction themselves. The lyrical scenes, full of life and emotion, tell stories in their details the way a symphony does in its movements.

Though she utilizes a variety of media in her works, Gravel approaches her paintings with the methodical, dedicated approach of the Old Masters: layer upon layer, stroke after stroke. Each piece is the product of a long process requiring a "stubborn concentration," with color schemes inherited from the seasons of the year. The way in which she melds reality and dreams, figuration and abstraction, is reminiscent of Egyptian, Mexican, and Medieval art.

Francine have studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. She enjoys an international reputation, with collectors and exhibitions in the world

**Roger Geerts Art Critic, Belgium**



" One Summer Night Music " oil on canvas 51 x 40 cm.