David Bolduc 1945–2010

> *“The drawings are a conscious attempt to represent the world around me and the paintings are a conscious attempt to not represent what the world looks like.”*

By his “drawings,” Toronto artist David Bolduc in fact spoke of his watercolours, made from observations of locale, light, atmosphere and mood in the many other places that he also considered home during significant passages of his life.

Bolduc cherished Morocco. Its creative traditions beguiled him as much as the casual stoicism of its built environment. He admired how Byzantine artists and craftspeople circumvented the Islamic interdiction against pictorial representation by incorporating forms everywhere apparent in nature into the details of architecture and decor. Bolduc was always mindful of the example of an earlier sojourner to Morocco, the French modernist Henri Matisse. Like Matisse, Bolduc reveled in the expressive potency of colour.

Despite the somber tones of the “drawings” on the opposite wall or the grey cast of the canvas at left, Bolduc’s paintings brimmed with emotion, never starkly withholding it. His simple, ambiguous, signature image of stems clasped at the bottom recurred through Bolduc’s art, in each appearance indicating a singular feeling.

David Bolduc passed away on April 8, 2010. In 2003 he donated seventeen works to the MacLaren Art Centre, among twenty-four paintings, prints and collages by the artist now in the Collection.