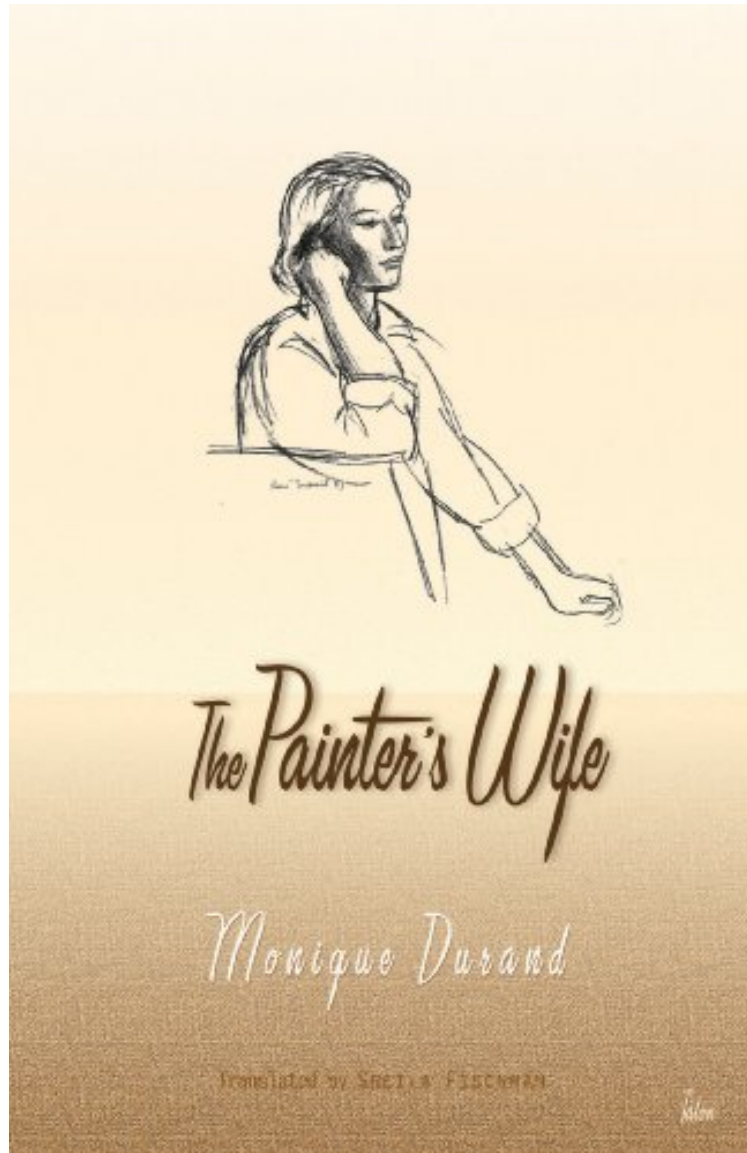


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## The Painter's Wife

*Monique Durand*

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**Monique Durand : The Painter's Wife** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Painter's Wife:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Bon lire!By www.frontstreetreviews.comIf you are wanting to read a small novel this summer but tired of the mainstream you might want to check out some of the new publications from Talonbooks. Particularly fine is the first novel by Monique Durand, The Painter's Wife. Durand, a long time journalist and producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, has created a lexical painting of Evelyn Rowat and Rene Marcil's marriage.Beginning in the 1930's with a glimpse of Evelyn's childhood, The Painter's Wife, is first set in the

town of Mount Royal near Montreal. Evelyn's father is a kind but browbeat man whose job as a biochemist has moved his family several times. Evelyn's mother is a deeply prejudice conservative who is both physically and mentally abusive. At a young age Evelyn is drawn to the arts and begins her career in advertising by drawing hats for Eaton's. She soon meets and marries a young musician before moving to New York in 1941. It is in New York that Evelyn eventually meets Rene Marcil. Their devotion to art binds them together through a lifetime of depression, exertion, and passion. Evelyn's devotion to Rene is what makes this story extraordinary. Monique Durand's use of language is an art unto itself. Words like phantasmagoria and transhumance color her pages, while letters to Evie from Rene read like poetry. Descriptions of St. Henri on the St. Lawrence River, Paris, Les Saintes-Maries in France, Islington near London England, New York, and Toronto are opulent and fluid. Reading *The Painter's Wife* is like drinking a fine glass of wine, it intoxicates the senses. The themes of melancholy and nostalgia are at the essence of this epoch affair with art and leave the reader feeling almost inebriated. Sheila Fischman's translation of *The Painter's Wife* is superb and greatly compliments Durand's writing. Quite possibly, everything being translated to English for us monolingual Americans should be done by Sheila Fischman. The only bad thing about *The Painter's Wife* is that it is too short and leaves you craving dialog. It definitely sparks an interest in Rene Marcil's paintings. There is a wonderful website devoted to Marcil which gives a brief biography with timeline and many examples of his paintings. It can be found at [...] More information about *The Painter's Wife* can be found at [...] Lovers of words will find Durand's book a must read. Bon lire!

Inspired by the lives of two great artists – Evelyn Rowat, fashion illustrator, and Reneacute; Marcil, painter – *The Painters's Wife*, a novel about art and passion, is written in a language as brilliant and intense as the mercurial lives of its completely contradictory characters.

"Resonant, ethereal, poignant. Here is a novel of rare aesthetic intelligence."? Le Provence (France)"A delight."? Nuit blanche