

national identity

**Gilda
M. Pontbriand**



A native of Mexico City, Gilda Pontbriand is a highly acclaimed painter who has won at least eight national and international awards.

Gilda came to Canada in 1974 and lives in Ottawa. She has had over 50 group and solo shows in Canada, Japan, Korea, Mexico and the United States. Her paintings are found in many public, private and corporate collections around the world, and have been reproduced in several books and magazines. In 1997 she was invited to supervise Youth Volunteer Corps members who were creating a mural in Ottawa. Entitled *Friendship*, the mural is located at the Shepherds of Good Hope mission.

Ellarbol (acrylic on canvas)



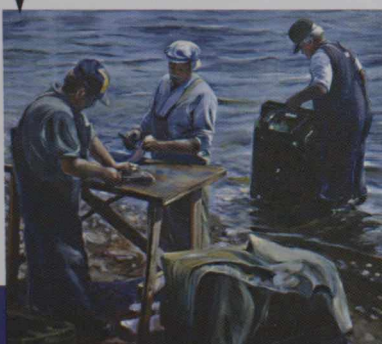
**Silvia
Araya**



Born in Santiago, Chile, Silvia Araya moved to Canada in 1977 and settled in the Québec City area. She is a graduate of the University of Chile.

Silvia has won several awards for her work, including the Rotary International Gold Medal and the Canadian House of Commons Distinction Award for her outstanding contribution to Quebec culture. She is the founder of a Québec City art school, where she has taught painting to a total of 1000 students since 1977. Her work is shown in galleries in Canada and abroad.

La Gaspésie



**Grupo America
Dance Company**

The members of the Vancouver-based Grupo America Dance Company are masters of both music and dance. Grupo America includes a troupe of 26 professional dancers, a dance school and a mariachi-style musical ensemble called Trio America.

Grupo America was founded by sister and brother Erika and Diego Sanchez, natives of Colombia. The company has performed in Western Canada and the U.S. Northwest, promoting Latin culture. In 1997, Grupo America was invited to play at events connected with the APEC summit in Vancouver. It appears regularly in schools all over British Columbia, presenting a colourful show.

**Festejo-Peru
(Afro-Peruvian Dance)**



**Los Pequeños /
Nadxieli**

Chantal Leblanc



The rhythms of Latin America pulsate in the work of two Montréal-based groups of young performers. The players in Los Pequeños are children aged 3 to 12, while teens aged 13 to 17 take the spotlight in Nadxieli (a word meaning "love" in the Zapotec language). The groups were founded in 1990 by Montrealer Chantal Leblanc to showcase the music, dance and costumes of Mexican regional folk traditions. ●—

**Xavier Fernandez Londono
Noémi Lira-Rinfret**

