

L'oeuvre des jours (The Work of Days) Documentary (In French with English subtitles)

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Director: Bruno Baillargeon

Running time: 105 minutes

Watching Bruno Baillargeon's L'oeuvre des jours (The Work of Days) is like watching paint dry. That's not necessarily a bad thing for an understated documentary about the creative process.

Baillargeon profiles three aging Montreal artists — Louis-Pierre Bougie, François-Pierre Marange and Denis Saint-Pierre. There are no dramatic flourishes in this low-key movie, no fancy camera angles, montages or stylized evocations of the sublime.

Rather, simply, as the title implies, there is the day-to-day reality of life in the loft studio the three men share.

We watch them paint, talk and putter.

Marange is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. The most philosophical of the bunch, he loves to talk about the mysterious power of art, how it snuck up on him when he was simply a print shop technician, and how, despite a severe learning disability, he found his passion through the benevolence and patience of fellow artists working in the studio when he started out.