



Crafts - The Clay Barn

- Jon So Lisa you offer courses here, what kind of courses are they?
- Lisa We offer pottery painting, so basically customers come in choose something to paint and then they stay for a couple of hours or however long it takes to paint it and then they leave it here while I glaze it and fire it, and they can come back sort of after three or four days to collect that. So that's aimed at all age groups.
- Jon And can I just interrupt and ask you what kind of objects, I can see them, but for the listeners what kind of objects do you have here?
- Lisa OK we've got different objects for all age groups. We've got ceramic animals, moneyboxes, jugs, teapots, plates, bowls, mugs...they're for tea lights to put your candles in. Um, I have to have dragons which I find for French customers things like the dragons, fairies and things like that are really popular.
- Jon Is that the Breton influence..
- Lisa Yes I think it is...not so much with the English customers - so I have to have quite a range and what I tend to do when I do have French customers come in, I do ask them to perhaps look through and just tell me what sort of things they think are nice so that I know that I can cater.
- Jon And that's Lady Godiva there is it...
- Lisa Yes, my daughter painted that, I've got a nine year old that just actually loves coming in here and always painting all of my stock for me.
- Jon Sorry, looking at your leaflet you seem to be something of a polyglot - do you offer courses in French as well?
- Lisa Yes, quite often I do get French families come in and ask me to speak to the children in English and depending on the age then I will try and we just go through colours of the different paints and things, but yes I do try. With the other side, I have, before I came to France, before I did this in France, I had set up a pottery painting business in the UK for about eighteen months beforehand and then coming here I obviously had to learn how to explain the pottery painting to the French clients because it is quite a new concept to

them.

Jon Pottery painting, what exactly is the difference then between painting pottery and painting pictures on paper or canvas?

Lisa Painting pictures on canvas normally once they've been painted you just put a varnish over them if you want to and then you leave and they're finished - with the pottery painting to actually set and to bring out the colours the ceramic then needs to be dipped into a glaze and then actually put into my kiln and fired at a temperature of 1050 degrees. The items stay in the kiln for about 24 hours.

Jon And would I be right in saying that you don't really know, unless you are very experienced, the colour you apply isn't the colour you end up with when it comes out of the kiln?

Lisa Yep, the colours, the customers all do have colour tiles, 32 colours they can choose from and the tiles they've got have already been glazed up so the customers can see the colour result after the firing.

Jon Oh I see.

Lisa Although before the firing when they're actually painting it on, some of the colours don't look the same - a red after the firing is a brilliant Father Christmas red, before the firing it's quite pink. So it's having to explain to the customers as well, these colours will change and they will become a lot livelier after the firing process.

Jon We're looking at the final product here - this little tile you were talking about - number 21 is very dark blue here isn't it?

Lisa Yes.

Jon Whereas here it is quite pale.

Lisa Yes, that's right , yes.

Jon What about presents? What ready-made objects do you have for sale here?

Lisa I offer kits for deco-patch, which is actually the cardboard animals and models, and deco-patch is just a craft where you actually decorate a model using coloured paper, you can just buy hundreds of different designs of special paper and you just stick the paper onto the cardboard objects and then glue over the top and then you can just decorate all manner of things. The chair over there I have just bought in a brocante and just use some papers to do that.

Jon That's a very busy looking giraffe...

- Lisa Yes. So that's why I actually sell deco-patch bags which come with an item to decorate, papers, brush and glue which are good for taking away. I work a lot with fused glass, which is putting glass together and then using the kilns to melt the glass to turn it into objects.
- Jon Right. Is it the same kind of temperature we're talking about for fusing glass?
- Lisa For the glass it's a lot lower - for the ceramics it's about 1050 degrees centigrade - for the glass a full fuse so it's all fully fused together is about 788 degrees, so it's a cooler temperature.
- Jon Hotter than you need for your average cake.
- Lisa Yes. One thing I do do, I recycle bottles. I prepare them, put them into the kiln and melt them, and then turn them into dishes, and plates and clocks and things.
- Jon So you actually use moulds to get this finished product?
- Lisa The dish one - yes I use a mould to get that one but I do sort of smaller ones and bigger ones and I just adapt, I've made certain moulds to make certain shapes and the bottles because they are recycled they are very very popular
- Jon That's very eco-friendly as well. What kind of price range are we talking about here?
- Lisa For one of my melted bottles, for a smaller one so I use beer bottles to make the butter dishes, they come with a butter knife and those ones are 6 euros, for the bigger dishes, the olive dishes, they are 12 euros and the clocks that I make out of all different types of bottles are 14 euros.
- Jon OK - Lisa thank you very much.
- Lisa Thank you.

