



## ***Glass fusing & casting courses - Sue MacGillivray***

- Elaine I'm here in Caurel to talk to Sue MacGillivray who runs a glass fusion workshop and find out more about the actual running of the place and the courses she is teaching and, basically, how it all came to be set up. So, Sue, tell me something about your workshop.
- Sue It's called La Verrerie de Guerlédan, Guerlédan because we're very close to the Lac de Guerlédan and verrerie which means glassworks in French. I thought that would be a really good name for it to be. We've been coming to Caurel for a long time visiting friends on holiday, funnily enough, to the house next to the atelier. In two thousand and..... at the end of 2011 we bought it. The atelier is the old épicerie - boulangerie and, um, it seemed to me that it would make an excellent workshop.
- Elaine Was it difficult to set it up?
- Sue Well it's taken, taken quite a long time just because there's so many different aspects to think about. Storage, I need somewhere to work, the materials, um, good space to teach in, a good space to make in. So I've tried to make the workshop into, um, the most flexible working space that's possible, so I can move all the furniture around. Most things are on wheels, the tables are on trestles so I can adapt it to whatever I want to do. The major investment was my large kiln over there and I've got one small test kiln which is for making test jewellery and I can eventually use for bead making if I ever get that far. So I didn't want to really confine myself just to one process. I enjoy fusing and also casting which involves making moulds. So I've got pretty much everything I need for both those processes. Then I want to be able to teach a good range of processes as well so having all the equipment to deliver courses is also important. So I've invested in quite a good range of glass so that I can make sure that people can do fusing or casting or other processes.
- Elaine So these courses that you're running how do they work?
- Sue Well I do a range of courses. I do one-off afternoons or day courses. The afternoon courses you can come and have a go at making coasters or jewellery or Christmas decorations or something like that and, usually, they last for about three and a half, four hours and I like to have four, five people maximum. Uh, I've got one....

it's a ten session course. It's been running over ten months and we're coming up to the last one next month. Um, but they've learnt to make coasters, they've done some panels and bowls, they've done melted bottles, um, and cut bottles. Did some casting so they've all made models and moulds to cast in glass and those are.... the moulds are ready to go in the kiln at the end of this week so, um.....

Elaine Very exciting.

Sue So that's very exciting, I look forward to that. I'm hoping to do a little exhibition of all the work that they've done 'cos it's been, it's been fascinating and great to see the lovely things that they've done.

Elaine So do you have much time for producing your own pieces when... now that you're so busy with the courses?

Sue In between I do make my own work to sell from the, from the workshop and I try and do a few markets, not, not too many, but I'm also doing commissions as well so I've done a window for Al Fresco's in Caurel which is a new café/bar that's opened up which is great, a great project to do, a great privilege. I've always liked doing a range of things. I love teaching but I don't want to do it all the time and I love making things and creating and, and it's really interesting to design and make what somebody themselves would like to have in their home and it's a...., it's quite a responsibility....., yeah.

Elaine So, any future plans?

Sue Yeah, I've been deliberately going quite gently to build up so that I have a good feel for what I want to make and what sells and what people want from the courses and what works and what doesn't. So it's starting to, to build now which is really good.

Elaine So how can people get in touch with you? How can they find out about.....?

Sue They can find out about the courses either by looking at the website or the Facebook page. That's got all my contact details on, [www.snvg.eu](http://www.snvg.eu) you can telephone, email, just come and stop by 'cos I'm open quite a lot of the time, usually Tuesday to Saturday at this time of the year.

Elaine Well thank you very much Sue, it's been absolutely....., I mean coming in here, it is like an Aladdin's cave with all your beautiful things around. It feels a very creative space.

Sue Oh great, thank you very much.

Elaine Nice to talk to you.

Sue        Thanks for coming.