



## *The Fine Arts Museum, Quimper - Sophie Kervan*

Rob I am in the Museum de Beaux Arts in Quimper now speaking with Sophie Kervan.

Sophie Yes.

Rob And what is your role here in the museum Sophie?

Sophie I am the Curator in this museum. There is another Curator who is a Director so it's Guillaume Ambroise.

Rob This museum has a lot to offer the visitor. What can the visitor expect to see?

Sophie The collections are very broad? because the visitors can discover, for example, old paintings about Brittany in 19<sup>th</sup> century, um big paintings, ancient life, the old life of the Bretons in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but the master pieces of our collection is l'Ecole de Pont-Aven, the School of Pont-Aven. We know Paul Gauguin. Unfortunately we have only three pieces, three works of Paul Gauguin in our collections but the visitors can discover Henri Moret, Emile Bernard, Maxime Maufra, who was important artist from this school. Its important to know also that there are a lot of ancient paintings, 18<sup>th</sup> century paintings, from french artists as Boucher, Day, Fragonard, Du so there are a lot of choices in this museum.

Rob OK, it's a very old building I understand?

Sophie Yes the museum was inaugurated in 1872 thanks to Jean-Marie de Silguy who was giving to the Ville of Quimper his own collection a thousand of paintings and two thousand of drawings. So thanks to Jean-Marie de Silguy this museum in Quimper is one of the most important in Brittany.

Rob And I understand that, I've seen the name in Quimper of Max Jacob, can you explain this person and his importance to Quimper?

Sophie Yes Max Jacob is a very important personality in Quimper, he was the first man who was Picasso's friend, before Picasso was recognised and was a very successful painter and the Fine Art Museum in Quimper is the only museum in France to have a room which is dedicated to Max Jacob who was born in Quimper. Unfortunately was dead in the camp of Drancy in 1942 because he was a Jew, a Jew man. So in this room which is dedicated to Max Jacob the visitors can see portraits of Max Jacob by other artists and a portrait by Modigliani which represented Max Jacob.

Rob So he knew many of the painters of Paris that became very big artists, very famous artists.

Sophie Yes, we can say that Max Jacob is a go-between, you know, between painters and poets and he met Modigliani, Picasso, Cocteau, Soutine, you know all these artists who was in Montparnasse and in Montmatre in 1910, 1905, 1915 and we say that Max Jacob has invented the name of bateau-lavoir where Picasso painted Les Demoiselles d'Avignon.

Rob Right. Visitors to Quimper this summer, will there be, if they come to

the museum here, the Museum of Fine Arts, is there a special exhibition on this summer?

Sophie Yes this summer there will be a temporary exhibition about an artist, Alexandre Séon and the title of the exhibition 'Alexandre Séon - The Ideal Beauty'. Alexandre Séon is a French symbolist painter during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. He lived in the island of Bréhat in Brittany where he had a house which name was Simplicity House, in English, and he painted a lot of beautiful women the purpose of Alexandre Séon is to look for the invisible woman, it's not to make a real woman but to keep the lines, the pure lines, to look for something, uh, something ideal. So in this exhibition the visitors will be able to, to discover landscapes from Bréhat by Alexandre Séon, a lot of womens' portraits and to discover too the influence of Puvy de Chavannes and Georges Seurat on Alexandre Séon.

Rob That sounds fascinating, I'm looking foward to coming back to see this exhibition.

Sophie I hope so.

Rob When are the dates?

Sophie Alors, so the dates, the dates are 18<sup>th</sup> June until the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Rob Fantastic. That's lots of information and I think it's going to bring a lot of people. Lots of our listeners to your museum.

Sophie I hope so!

Rob Thank you very much indeed.

Sophie Thank you.

