



Festival 'Empreinte d'Artistes' – Hervé Guiquel

Judith. Good morning

Hervé. The idea was to gather many artists from various disciplines, uh, because today we think that artists are always in their own field. The sculpture will have exhibitions with other sculpture, the illustrator will stay with other illustrators and we think that it's more interesting to create bridges between people and we wanted to create an event on the canal with sculpture, musicians, photographer as many artists as we can find.

Judith. The name is, the "Les Empreintes des artistes"

Hervé. Uh, it's 'Empreintes d'artistes'

Judith. 'Empreintes d'artistes'...

Hervé. I think the translation is foot imprint....

Judith. Footprint.

Hervé. Footprint.

Judith. Artists footprint?

Hervé. And it's, uh, because you will create a memory in the mind of someone. And, for example, engraving is a kind of "empreinte", uh, and many, many printing process are a kind of "empreinte". So in... as many of us work in the book industry, as publishers, illustrator, writers, we wanted to play with the word and with our universe.

Judith. Why did you focus on Nantes to Brest canal?

Hervé. In fact, Serge Guiquel who created the, the festival has always been fascinated canal, he's fascinated by the canal. And in the Centre of Brittany we don't have a lot of tourism because people think there is nothing to see. And we think that it's a mistake. We have many things to show and people are very sensitive to huge monuments like the Eiffel Tower or like castles. But we think that the canal is a huge monument too, but it's more difficult to see so we wanted to promote it because it's something fascinati.... fascinating because of its history, because of the ecology around it, you have....I don't know how you say loutres....?

Judith. Otters.

Hervé. We have otters, we have fish, we have so many things around it... so we wanted people to discover the church, the canal and the, the universe around the canal.

Judith. Do you have sponsors or particular partners who help you financially or, or in different ways?

Hervé. We have small sponsors we don't have any... don't have any big contribu..., contr...contributors. But we have many small partners. We are supported by Bio coop in Carhaix, we are supported by Gros Bulle Factory, l'Arbre à pain. We also have in the administration way we have the, CC.. CCKB, the Département, maybe the Region this year, it's not sure and Canal 22 of course.

Judith. And last year, 2016, do you know how many visitors came during the festival?

Hervé. Yes. Just to give you an idea in why it is a huge challenge for us. Four, five years ago when we created the festival we had 450 visitors and last year, we had seven thousand and five hundred visitors. So it is a huge progression and for us, it's a huge challenge because we, we want...we, we don't want to explode, because of growth, because of too big....

We don't want the festival to become bigger; for us it is big enough. In fact if we create something too big, it will become a kind of supermarket we will lose the atmosphere of the, of the festival.

Judith. Which aspects of the festival do you think were most popular?

Hervé. Last year, uuh people enjoyed the "yarn-bombing" when people, ah they create a kind of clothes around trees, around a monument as at Coat-natous lock. And still at Coat-natous we also had the, uh, the "snoring nest". It was a kind of nest suspended in a tree and you could hear something snoring inside it like if a kind of creature was sleeping inside it, it was impossible to check because it was too far from.... the tree was on, on the canal, and you couldn't check if someone was sleeping inside it or not.

Judith. Excellent.....

Hervé. And the book fair was a success too with twelve publishers from Brittany, France and foreign countries.

Judith. The books, do they have any link necessarily to the canal or water or is it...?

Hervé. No but they do have a link most of the time with art. They have beautiful books to show and we wanted to show also that Bretons publisher, even if they are small in front of national publishers, they have a really, really huge quality in their choice of books and authors.

Judith. It must be a lot of work to set up the festival. How do you manage?

Hervé. Each year we receive between 30 and 50 artists, so it's very complicated to meet everybody, to bring their artworks here and we also gather between 40 and 50 volunteers. We have 3 tonnes of stuff to move to prepare everything.

Most of the time we choose to organise exhibitions and concerts in churches, in old castles, if we find an old castle. For example, Gouarec is very representative of what we like to, to use, to show. For example in Plélauff we are in and the hall isn't very beautiful in particular, but practical and convenient. But we will work this year or the next year on the, on the lock in Plélauff, which is very, very good with a very long island. I think that you see it....

Judith. Yes, yes I know. How can anyone find out more about the festival?

Hervé. The easier way is to check our website. Each year I also try to translate the programme, the poster and a part of the website.

Judith. If someone wants to come and help, is there a number they can call?

Hervé. I can give my number is 06 59 04 20 64.

Judith. Well thank you very much Genkis, it's fantastic and good luck for this year's festival.

Hervé. Thank you very much.

