



## *La Roche Jagu - volunteers Ilaria and Heather.*

Ilaria: OK. My name is Ilaria. I'm Italian but I live in this beautiful Brittany and err, they were looking for benevoles they would help Rebecca to put together all the flowers and the only requirement was to speak some English.

Rob: And why does she want you to speak English?

Ilaria: Because, err, she wanted to really be able to understand where we, where she wanted to go with it and, and that it would be a funny thing to, to work together and it was indeed because, err, it created a very, very beautiful group of people they were all kind of natural selection to be friends and to have a touch of artistic feeling and flower and music because a couple of them they were playing in beautiful music while we were err, putting the flowers together. And meeting Rebecca was a very beautiful moment, an highlight for all of us because of her natural, umm, natural way to make everybody at ease and include everybody in our artistic process.

Rob: So you actually watched the whole thing being created. Can you tell us a little bit about how she was instructing you to, to make this installation?

Ilaria: Well for us it was a bit of a Chinese work we needed to put the flowers together, umm

Rob: There are how many flowers in this?

Ilaria: Fifteen thousand.

Rob: Fifteen thousand flowers?

Ilaria: Yes, so we had all these boxes with all these dried flowers and we sat next to each other and we did chat, many of us were women so we had no problem to introduce ourself, and while working in the cold and knitting this flower, putting this flower together one after the other we, we have created a lot of beautiful friendships and err, and then Rebecca was sometimes working with us and then just all of a sudden she would stand and pick a bunch of flowers and hang it and just you could see she was just following her intuition about colour or a form, but I think this is not the first of her exhibition in, of this style, so she was already she had already an idea. I mean, we all could saw a sketch of her idea at the beginning and we were following but we were just the end step putting flowers together, she was just the creative mind.

Rob: This piece is called "Banquet". Can you tell us ....

Ilaria: I, I don't know. I think it's just about a position where you sit in like the lord of the castle would sit in the chair and have this banquet in front that is just like the abundancy of a banquet, you know, like the overflowing quantity and the beauty and overflowing just in front of him. This is my interpretation.



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Rob: Well I think its a very accurate one because it's in a big, err, room here probably a banqueting hall.

Ilaria: Yes, yes

Rob: So it's a piece which is specific to the place?

Ilaria: Yes

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Jon talking to Heather

Heather: I was here for three days from nine in the morning till six in the evening practically non-stop, just a break for lunch ...

Jon: Have your fingers recovered?

Heather: Our fingers were very sore. We were wiring individual dried flower heads onto thin copper wire and when we had a meter's length of that finished we tied it onto a longer, thicker, copper wire and they were carefully colour graded and sorted into this beautiful cascade of err dried flowers that you can see here.

Jon: It does look very impressive. Can you actually identify the bits you put together?

Heather: We were carefully colour graded so each table was err kept separate from the others so I worked mostly with the white flowers, so any of the white branches that you can see ...

Jon: I can see some daisies there

Heather: Daisies...

Jon: What about those white ones?

Heather: Oh I don't know names of all of them

Jon: Are you keen on botany? Gardening?

Heather: No I love flowers I love looking at it but the hard work that goes into it is a, a different story.

Jon: What did you make of the artist herself? Did you get the time to speak to them?

Heather: Oh, she was great fun. I sat and worked with her husband because she was here with her parents who looked after the young son and her husband who worked jolly hard with the rest of the



volunteers stringing up the flowers. It was mostly French speakers who volunteered. While I was there I was the only anglophone but err the girls kept us amused by singing in the afternoon, and some wonderful Breton songs which we enjoyed very much.

Jon:                So you'd do the same thing again, would you?

Heather:        Oh yes. Yes, at the drop of a hat as the saying goes. I met some really interesting people and err feel I've contributed a little something in an artistic manner in a way I wouldn't have been able to normally.

Jon:                Well I'm sure you have Heather. So I'll leave you to take some pictures just to remind yourself of your contribution.

Heather:        Thank you

Jon:                Thank you very much

Heather:        Thank you