



**La Roche Jagu - Rebecca Law, artist.**

Jon What gave you the idea to make these sculptures, or installations, out of flowers?

Rebecca I studied Fine Art, and I was a painter, and I loved painting flowers and the colours of flowers, and my work became quite abstract. And I really wanted to be able to feel like I could paint in the air and have the viewer walk into a painting. So I started experimenting with different materials and I finished with flowers – I never left flowers – and flowers are my medium now.

Jon How do you choose these flowers? Why these particular flowers?

Rebecca These flowers are the best dried flowers that I can source today. So I source these from a farm in Normandy that has been drying flowers for a long time, and they have the best colour. So in terms of swapping my paint for flowers, this is the best palette I could get.

Jon So for example, that particularly vivid red flower there, how long will it keep its colour, do you think?

Rebecca That flower is called Immortal, or Helichrysum, and they are an everlasting flower, and the colour – if it was kept out of sunlight – could last beyond my life. It's about the environment that you keep it in. So most of these flowers could keep their colour, it would just be the sun that bleaches them.

Jon You say you have them sourced in Normandy, by someone who dries flowers, how long are they dried for? What does the process involve?

Rebecca They will plant them in January, and pick them in the summer, and then dry them ... they need at least three months minimum, to six months ideally, and then I can collect them from Normandy.

Jon And you have how many volunteers working here at the minute?

Rebecca About 15.

Jon Are you happy with the way they're working?

Rebecca The volunteers have been amazing. We had one group last week, and another group this week, and both groups have been amazing, actually fantastic in the way that they have a very beautiful energy, which has helped.

Jon How precisely do they have to carry out your instructions? Does it have to be to the millimetre, or do they have some kind of artistic input themselves?

Rebecca There is a freedom that they have. I have strict instructions on keeping the flower to the wire, that's very important, but in terms of guidance in distance, I'll give a rough idea. Rough measurements by using your fingers or your hands, so depending on how large you are or small you are will depend on how big the distances are. But I like the thought ... I like my work to have many hands make it and that be obviously hand-made.



Jon        Where do you get your inspiration from?

Rebecca From nature. I'm inspired from everything I see within nature. The sea, the mountains, grass, trees, woodlands, I love seeing nature and how epic it is, and the amount of nature that surrounds us. To try and even mimic that a tiny bit within my work indoors, and bringing it into the man-made buildings is an inspiration to me.

Jon        And just looking at this it's quite clear it's not just flowers. You have wheat, I think, and you also have my favourite fruit, which is Physalis.

Rebecca So it's anything natural that I can dry, really. I have used shells, insects, taxidermy before, as long as it's ethical, and I know that it's been sourced in the right way, and grown in the right way, then I'll use it. Yeah ... I've been self-employed as an artist since around 2009. It's not easy, but I took the risk and decided that it was the best way to go.

Jon        Well, we wish you all the best. I'll certainly be back to have a look when it's finished. Thank you very much, Rebecca. Good luck.

Rebecca Ah, thank you, thank you.