



Allan Barbeau, artist in Plouguernével

Rob I am in the workshop of Allan Barbeau, who is an artist here in Plouguernével. You're primarily a painter?

Allan I'm a drawer, yeah. I draw parchments, I draw illustrations, that's my main work.

Rob What kind of other things do you produce. I can see sculptures around?

Allan I like sculpting, I like doing miniatures, I like to paint as well.

Rob What kind of themes do you have?

Allan More like fantasy stuff, yeah, I like dragons and wizards and stuff like that?

Rob Where does that come from?

Allan I don't know, I just like these things I like Lord of the Rings and all the stuff from there. I read the book when I was little and think what the heck is this world and speak from there.

Rob I see around various well known people. I can see Harry Potter from here, I can see Johnny Deppe. So you do portraits of famous people?

Allan Yeah, I mean, well, when you start drawing portraits you need to show that you can, you know, that the likeness is there. If I draw my face nobody know my face, there's no point there. Yeah, so if you want to do a little bit of buzz on the internet you need to do famous people, so Johnny Deppe is right there and especially this one, because this one is made with ball point pen

Rob A ball point pen?

Allan Yeah, I got my time with ball point pen and er...

Rob Is that especially difficult?

Allan Yeah, because you can't a erase ball point pen, so you need to know what you're doing and you need to know how to work the colours to criss cross them for mixing colour because you can't mix the colour as well, so yeah its, it's something else than normal pencil or painting.

Rob It's er extraordinary the picture of Johnny Deppe as Jack Sparrow.

Allan Captain Jack Sparrow.

Rob Captain Jack Sparrow, it looks really very, very detailed.



Allan Yeah. It's actually even more detailed than the photo I had actually, it's more contrasted, because you know you can really push the detail there.

Rob So you do your portraits of famous people, because you also do portraits by commission.

Allan Yeah, Yeah, that's main job, Yeah.

Rob I did a little exploring before we met on your internet site and I noticed that you do portraits of children who have died, for the parents who are in mourning for them?

Allan Yeah. It came a little more than ten years ago now and there was this mum that lost her baby during delivery and so she asked me if I can draw him in peaceful environment because the photo is quite hard to look at so my job there is to create something that is very peaceful to look at and you can hang on the wall and present the kids to everybody so the kids is there it exists already you have his name there and it helps it helps the family to move on. I think last month I did my 253 baby.

Rob Goodness me, so it really becomes important?

Allan Yeah, it's important and it became important for me because it helps, and I can even, you know, starting to do I do it as well because the one I'm doing right now it's, it's a grown up dad, passed away this last summer, so yeah, it's, it's, it's kind of heavy but in the same time you know, you know you are doing a good job and a drawing that really gonna mean something for a family and friends so it's, it's really rewarding.

Rob On a lighter tone, you work with children as well, I understand.

Allan Yeah, I do workshops in here. So, we do a lot of fun things, like sculpting and doing miniature with papier mache and cardboard and you know. I try to recycle a maximum of things to, to show the kids with nothing you can do something fun. And I do workshops with adults as well. In the evening we do drawing. We're gonna start sculpting as well.

Rob So people who might be interested in doing a workshop with you, what can they expect?

Allan A bit of fun, probably we're gonna work a little bit as well because that is the point of it. It's not a school, I'm not really a school guy. So it's not an art school, it's more a workshop so we're gonna draw, anyway, we all Around the table and we have a subject, like, I don't know, like a cup, or anything. So everybody is drawing the cup and as soon as you stop somewhere I'm here to, you know, show you where it's not working and then off you go again, until you're stuck again, so when you're a beginner you're stuck a lot of time, you're stuck all the times, I am here to show you how to go. But usually it work well because we all work at the same time and they look at me enjoying it, they can have some clue how to do it as well, we construct the drawing yeah, it's working. Because I have a few beginners that doing stuff now they don't believe, you know. I'm not a big fan of you know of big artist world, stuff that you know you be afraid you not understand. I'm a very easy talkative guy, so I mean, I explain things, you know, very easily, and it works because you know people seem to enjoy coming here and do the workshops.



Rob And what's important to add is that you're a fluent English speaker.

Allan I do groups so as soon as I have two people it's a group already, so we can start the group there, so if we have a bunch of English friends that wants to create, you know, even if the group doesn't exist yet we can find a space and have a proper English workshop there.

Rob If people are interested in coming to a workshop, or setting up a workshop with you, how can they contact you?

Allan You can contact me with my phone number, or I have an email as well, so you can contact me there

Rob And you have a site?

Allan And I have a blog.

Rob Oh, it's a blog, not a website?

Allan It's a blog yeah, but I mean you can see my work, you can contact me anyway.

Rob Allan Barbeau, thank you very much indeed.

Allan You're welcome, thank you very much.