



Jeanne Eliet - Le Circuit des Chapelles.

Jeanne Yes it takes place in July and August. It starts actually on Saturday July 25th and will be over on Sunday August 23rd. It's made of a series of exhibitions which are open every day including Sundays, only in the afternoon from 2.30pm to 6.30.

So they take place in 8 different chapels or small churches and they are all located in a very small area between Morlaix and Lannion. It means along the sea and we would say they are located in a circle of 20 km radius, something like that. The principle is one chapel, one artist, one exhibition – and so it is contemporary art and creation. They are all very different and all very original. Each artist has his own personality and every chapel is different. For instance if we speak about Rozenn Joyeux, she has built an exhibition entirely dedicated to megaliths which is very special – nobody has done this in our country before.

Another artist, Bernard Alain Brux in Plouzélambre, for instance, has created a labyrinth from over 1000 cut-out shapes, so it's all so completely new and crazy; and in the third one in Saint Efflam in Pléstin for instance, Philip Bensaïd is a painter and he has illustrated from large pictures including pastel technique, text from our very famous French classical author, La Fontaine, so it shows different fables of La Fontaine in a very modern style.

So you see, each one is different. There is nothing to compare and it is the interest of this circuit we show different things – very different things – and different chapels as well.

Rob And it's not the first time you have organised this series of exhibitions is it?

Jeanne No no, it's not the first time, it's the 12th season. We started with a small group of chapels in Pléstin. The year after the city next door said "oh I want to gather with you, can I come and also play with you" so we were Pléstin - plus another city, and then another one, another one, another one, and at the final time we were 10 cities with 15 chapels. We don't think we are going to spread more, because we don't want people to ride too many kilometres, and it has to stay in a small area to be coherent and easy and pleasant and not to be like a rush and forward and to run, and so on ...

Rob You must have been very relieved to know that the lockdown, the confinement, has been relaxed?

Jeanne Up to now, up to two weeks ago let's say, we did not know what we would be entitled to do, what would be possible, what would be allowed. What sort of sanitary barriers we would have to put in place and to work when you don't know what you have to do is very difficult. Now we know exactly what we will do. We will have 8 exhibitions, 6 rides across the countryside, 3 conferences and that's it. So it's a small circuit if you compare to the past years when 30 different events were organised but still it remains very, very interesting.

Rob Why do you think chapels are a good place for exhibitions?



Jeanne Actually there are several reasons, and the more we go, the more we find reasons. At the beginning, the real reason was to keep the chapels open. In the small area where we are we have the chance with a very high density of beautiful chapels, all dating back to the 15/16th century. Most of them are pure jewels, but they were closed for safety reasons first but also because there are less religious events taking place, so our exhibitions offer an opportunity to keep them open so that the visitor, the tourist, people who don't know the country can discover them at the same time as the exhibitions. This is an opportunity of discovering a fabulous heritage.

Rob You're organising, around each chapel, a circuit – a walking circuit – a randonnée which allows people to see the chapel in its surroundings.

Jeanne Yes, around each chapel nowadays you can find 6-8 kilometres circle for walking, for making randonnées that will give the visitors the opportunity of being taken by the hand in a certain way because we organise the randonnées ourselves – they can also do it free if they want – but I think it's more interesting for them to be in a group with somebody speaking them the story of the place, showing them interesting highlights and so on.

Rob So all this information will be available on a blog I understand.

Jeanne We have built a blog and this blog is lecircuitdeschapels.fr

Rob I am sure that people will be really happy to be able to discover the area and the weather will be wonderful in July and August. Jeanne Eliet, President of the Office Culturel Municipal de Pléstin and the co-ordinator of the Circuit Des Chapels, thank you very much for talking to us.

Jeanne Thank you very much to you.