



Les Pierres Inspirées

Rozenn I paint a lot with natural pigments, and with egg; it's a very old technique, used for icons, and it's very well suited to these old stones, the menhirs and dolmens and all the different kinds of schists, of granites which we find in Brittany. I paint on wood panels, but I also use pastels, and I do engravings and prints too. The subject has been a passion for more than ten years, and I'm very pleased to be able this year to exhibit most of this year's work at the chapel at Yaudet.

Rob Your paintings are landscapes, most particularly you're interested in the Neolithic sites of Brittany; dolmen, menhirs and such like, which are part of the heritage of Brittany. Why are you interested in this subject in particular?

Rozenn I found that in this subject matter there is a sense of the sacred and the mysterious; it certainly something that I wanted to paint. Menhirs and dolmen are not only found in Brittany but all over the world, though we have a great concentration of them here. The sites themselves are magnificent, and they allow me to paint Brittany in all seasons, in places that are not well-known, where the stones are almost hidden. But they are there, nevertheless. And I able to paint the Breton countryside at the same time as well, of course.

Rob Do you have a favourite site that people will see in your paintings?

Rozenn Yes, of course Carnac, a wonderful place, known throughout the world. But there's also another remarkable site near where I live called Saint Just. It's the second best known site after Carnac, and it's magnificent. There, there are schists and quartz in different interesting combinations: cairns, menhirs, dolmen of course, covered passages; all the different forms of neolithic monument. And then there's Montneuf in Morbihan, an interesting site known for the colour of the schists, called red but of all the colours in fact. All the sites are interesting; all are different, all have their own personality, their mystery of course. That's what's important for me: to paint their mystery.

Rob And some of your paintings are quite abstract, because of the colours you have chosen...

Rozenn They're not abstract really, but they take on that aspect sometimes because the arrangements of the stones can be especially rough and haphazard. But I always try to make each site recognisable, positioning the stones exactly as they lie. So much so that, when archeologists visit my studio, they recognise the place immediately, and they are amused by the way that I've treated the site that they know well, having decoded more scientifically and precisely than I. They also recognise that these sites give off a certain something that they themselves have felt.

Rob You have planned several exhibitions this spring, which of course have been cancelled because of the pandemic. However there is an exhibition that you have mentioned, where you will be showing your paintings in the Trégor region. Can you tell us where it will be and how it will be organised?



Rozenn Yes, I was planning to exhibit in the four departments of Brittany; in the end, there's only one exhibition which is still going ahead, and that's at Yaudet, in the chapel there, as part of the festival of Art in the Chapels of the Plestin Area. There are different exhibitions, about ten in all, and I shall be in the Chapel of the Statue of the Recumbent Virgin, which is quite well-known. It's in the commune of Ploulec'h, it looks over the sea, it's a lovely setting. It's strange in fact, because thirty years ago, when I was a restorer of antique religious artefacts, I was lucky enough to be asked to restore the statue, and there I am, thirty years later, exhibiting my paintings in the same chapel. I'm delighted of course, and it's a stunning site at the same time. So this collection of paintings, called "Les Pierres Inspirées": "Inspirational Stones", is a testament, both poetic and artistic, to these ancient monuments, after six thousand years of silence.

Rob When will the exhibition take place?

Rozenn The dates are from the 25th of July until the 23rd of August.

Rob And if listeners would like to see your work before they go to the exhibition, you have a website?

Rozenn Yes, I've created a website wholly devoted to the paintings of the megaliths; it's www.lespierres-inspirees.bzh (I wanted a Breton domain name). You can see all the paintings, the engravings, the prints and all the different techniques I use.

Rob I'm sure that people will be interested to come and have a look at your paintings of the Breton countryside, and the megaliths in particular. And I wish you good fortune for your exhibition this summer.

Rozenn Thank you very much.

Rob Thank you Rozenn,

Rozenn Thank you. Bye bye!