

## **Rob interviews Marion Delisle of Gloan Glav**

### **MARION**

Gloan mean er wool and Glav the rain. So it's about the sheep living in Brittany, and the rain. (laughs) so that was my idea.

### **ROB**

So how long have you been operating as Gloan Glav?

### **MARION**

Gloan Glav started in 2017. The brand was created in 2017, but I started about 2 years before to go in different workshop, working with artisans, also farmers and different kind of people working with wool and creating wool mattress and wool bedding.

### **ROB**

Your speciality is making mattresses. I can see here in the workshop in front of us a great big mattress stuffed with Breton Wool. That's the important part of Gloan Glav. This represents a lot of work, I imagine?

### **MARION**

I would say the biggest part of the work is wool selection for me, because that also one of my speciality. I'm not only a mattress fabricant I'm a wool selectioner, if I could say that, I don't really know but I go in farms and I select different farms depending on the kind of sheep they have, the breed, and also the way they grow their sheep. I need sheep that are most of the time outside eating grass.

### **ROB**

You're looking for a particular kind of wool, for the quality of the wool?

### **MARION**

Yes, of the quality because for mattress we need wool with a lot of resilience and springy, yes. So that the mattress will not be too hard

**ROB**

And, how many fleeces do you need, to make a mattress?

**MARION**

So in a mattress we have between 25 and 30 kilos of wool for a 2 person mattress. You have er washed wool in the mattress and on the sheep you have about 2 kilos of raw wool so when you wash 1 kilo of wool you obtain half kilo of washed wool

**ROB**

Because there's a lot of dirt and a lot of things in the wool, lots of impurities?

**MARION**

So on 1 sheep you have about one kilo of clean wool, so you need between 25 and 30 sheep to make one mattress.

**ROB**

Now you talked about the wool which was very springy which is especially good for mattresses. What other qualities are there in wool, which make a good material for mattresses?

**MARION**

It has to be strong because a mattress is durable, it has a long life. Because you can use it 10 years and after 10 years we can re-use the wool, so we card it again and we take off the dirt and everything and we can make a mattress again with the same wool. So to do that you need to have a strong wool most of the time white, not yellow, because yellow means there is a problem in the wool, and springy wool, so the mattress will be soft and not too hard, yeah that's the most important.

**ROB**

How long does it take to make a mattress?

**MARION**

To make the mattress it's not very longest, because I need about 10 hours to make a mattress, between 7 and 10, it depends. But one of the most important parts for me it's er to select the wool, to collect the wool do my selection and then to prepare the wool to be washed and to have it back and to decide what I'm going to do with this wool and this other wool and..

**ROB**

How much is it going to cost for a mattress for two people?

**MARION**

For a standard two people mattress I start at 1000 euro and I can also do some 'on measure'.

**ROB**

Made to measure.

**MARION**

Made to measure for all the beds, or sofa or anything, I can create whatever you want (laughs).

**ROB**

But it's an investment, isn't it? A thousand euros for a mattress is an investment, because it's going to last .....

**MARION**

.....all life (laughs) no that's true because every ten years you just re-use the wool and you do again a new mattress but you can keep the wool of your mattress your whole life. So, it's a mattress for life and when it's too old, you can just put in the garden and compost it because it's only natural stuff, It's good for trees and gardens.

**ROB**

It's very expensive compost?

**MARION**

Yeah.. no, if you use it ten years afterwards it's just, there is no waste. Everything is used and bio degradable.

**ROB**

So, you don't only just make mattresses, you do other things as well, don't you? Tell me about some of the other things that you make.

**MARION**

I make all the bedding stuff, so mattress and mattress protector and also pillows. Quilts.

**ROB**

Er Quilts?

**MARION**

Blankets, also, and everything for kids, babies and also with the wool that I collect that don't have the qualities to be used in bedding I do some felts and with the felts we do also blankets and mattress protector and I also do pillows in felt and linen because the fabric I use is organic linen – also an important part of my work.

**ROB**

All these things are going to be exhibited at the Marché?

**MARION**

Yes, at the Marché La Laine

**ROB**

And you are responsible for organising this?

**MARION**

Yes, with Ann and Adele also.



**ROB**

Apart from seeing your products and seeing Adele doing some shearing what else will we see at the market.

**MARION**

This year will be more than 20 artisans working with wool, and especially local wool, that's the point that we want to honour. So you will see some yarn made with cotton wool also by end or not you will see people spinning also I think this year we have weaver, also we do some clothes also with Breton or French wool, also a tannery, felt and hats also, I don't remember, but many things, and some Art and so on.

**ROB**

OK, well we'll make a date. The 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 in Bulat Pestivian.

**MARION**

Yup.

**ROB**

Marion, I know you're a busy person, so I won't take any more of your time but thank you for telling us about that.

**MARION**

Thank you.