



Elaine interviewing Gavin and Rufina of Savoir-Faire

Gavin:

First of all, I suppose our history is that we've been running galleries and workshops for artists in the Midlands in the UK for probably six years or more. I originally started a gallery myself at university while studying a master's in fine arts. I sort of built a network around that, and then we partnered with a charity and we took over a lot more property and we built a big organisation. Rufina has helped build that organization since we've been together for the last four years. And that's still growing in the UK. We're now actually a registered charity for arts and for community in our region. But we really wanted somewhere to call home. And a place big enough to make what we've always dreamed of, an art school, to invite all the artists that we know globally, because we deal with a lot of people from all over Europe and all over the world. We like to get them together, we like to exhibit their art work, to hear their interesting ideas, to show that to an audience, to the public. And that's really the plan for here. So, we've been all over France looking for a place, for two years. We realised in the end that Brittany is close enough to the UK for us to still be able to manage projects in the UK, even though we've got a team there. And it seems like we've really landed in a great spot, because a lot of people here have been very friendly

Rufina:

Also, the people and the organisations, because the mairie, the local mairie is very supportive. CCKB and other organisations were very interested in our project, they help us

Gavin:

A lot of the people that we've talked to here have all had experiences at this place. It's been a discotheque, it's been a restaurant, it's been a school – so we've had guys coming in who went to school here - giving us all kinds of histories. You know, we think that's all fantastic. So obviously the place does mean something to people. It's just a shame that so much of it was left into disrepair. But yeah, it's a great place, and we can see massive potential in it, and we really do want to develop all of the property. It really looks like the establishment here is interested in being part of what we're doing as well. We want people to come to us with their ideas as well, their art work, their interest in doing group projects, and you know, bring to the table ideas for us as well. But also we'll be bringing artists to come and stay with us, so that's what the accommodation's about. And hopefully the big old building will become three more classrooms and probably ten bedrooms, so that's the plan for there. We've got rooms in this property too, on the first floor, and a classroom on the top floor. So, there's lots of space. And there's even more classrooms at the back of the property, which would make nice workshops, say for carpentry, steel, pottery, plaster work, all these things that we like to make. We want it to be as public as possible, so we want the knitting groups, and we want the painting groups to all come and join us and mix the demographics together. That's the idea.

Elaine:

I notice you've called it 'Savoir Faire'.

Gavin:

Yes, we were trying to think of a name that both the English and the French would understand. Obviously, it's a French saying.



Rufina:

We had seen this place, and just on the train back to Normandy we just did think about the name. Gavin asked me what kind of French words can be understandable also for English people, and I just said 'savoir faire'. And it's done.

Gavin:

And hopefully that's what it will be. You know, and the idea is that people come here and teach each other. So, we're all learners, and we all want to learn together, so that's the idea.

Elaine:

Are either of you artists?

Gavin:

We're both artists.

Elaine:

You're both artists. In what particular genre?

Gavin:

Well, I've done a master's in fine arts. I'm predominantly sculptural in what I make.

Rufina:

Well, I have made the BA in fine art in Tel Aviv, in Israel. Mostly, video art, photography, and more. I would say my art may be based on women's rights and all these questions, about women in a public space.

Gavin:

She's far more contemporary than me.

Rufina:

The last film I've made with (?) camera, I felt a bit proud myself and my friends as well because it was I think in the same year just before company tour.....(?) I felt each of us had made something for really get it more

Gavin:

Stronger

Elaine:

Anyway, I wish you the very very best of luck

Gavin and Rufina:

Thank you very much