

Dutch art form crosses into Chilliwack

By Jessica Murdy - Chilliwack Progress - November 27, 2007



Annet Holierhoek, from Holland, is introducing the art of Paverpol sculptures by offering workshops to Chilliwack residents. JENNA HAUCK/ PROGRESS

Annet Holierhoek has never called herself artistic. She didn't go to art school.

But she is finding ways to be creative. New ways. Easy ways.

And by doing that, she is quickly becoming an artist.

"I am finding creativity within myself," she says. Specifically, she's been using a product called Paverpol to create indoor and outdoor sculptures. Paverpol is a water-based, non-toxic textile hardener that's popular in her native Holland, and she hopes it will eventually become popular here, too. So far, there are only a handful of sellers in Canada, and Holierhoek is one of them.

"You don't have to be creative to do this," she says. But looking around her carriage-house shop in Garrison Crossing, it seems quite the opposite. The statues she's created all evoke different feelings. From sheer joy to quiet contemplation, the simple figures each convey something special.

But each creation only took about three or four hours, she says. And best of all, the supply list is basic and it's quick to get started. Holierhoek was just given sole distributorship for Paverpol in the whole province, selling products to crafters and artisans who are already familiar with its uses.

"Many people bring it back with them when they go for a visit to Holland," she says.

For those new to Paverpol, she's holding workshops beginning this weekend.

The first step, she says, is to create a basic form with sturdy wire. Holierhoek started with ideas straight from Paverpol's books, but after just a month or so of working with the product, she started to come up with her own designs, too.

She then uses various medium to create thicker forms, employing everything from florist tape to clay and tinfoil to make heads and bodies into just the right shape.

But Paverpol is really about fabric. It's used to harden textiles, creating sculptures suited for outside use. And old t-shirt is all that's needed to try some of the beginner projects.

"I let the fabric do the work," Holierhoek says, draping a piece of cotton over a sculpture. "It hangs naturally."

Paverpol was developed in Holland, as a way to create lightweight float designs for parades. Theatre companies have started to use the product, including Holiday on Ice.

Jewelers, business sign designers, life casters and many more are starting to see the potential the product has.

And Holierhoek is hoping Chilliwack will see it, too. She's created her business, Orange Wire Art, to hold the workshops and provide a place for people to buy the various Paverpol products.

She has several upcoming workshop days, including November 24, 28 and December 19. Workshops take an average of three to four hours, and a maximum of six hours. Costs for a workshop range from \$70 to 80, depending on the project.

Orange Wire Art is located at 5735 Shawnigan Drive in Garrison Crossing.

For more information, to book a workshop or to purchase Paverpol, phone 604-701-7793. Or visit her online at www.orangewireart.ca.

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