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MADAME BINGGUELY EXHIBITS BUST OF GENERAL GUISAN AT THE PARIS "SALON"

Madame Ginette Bingguely-Lejeune, the charming wife of our old friend Henry Bingguely is once again exhibiting at the famous Paris "Salon".

This time she is showing a bust of General Henri Guisan, Commander-in-chief of the Swiss Army during the last war.

Madame Bingguely, who was born in Paris, has exhibited her sculpture for many years at the Paris "Salon" and the Royal Academy. Famous busts like Rudyard Kipling (purchased by the Kipling Society, presented to the British Nation and accepted by the National Portrait Gallery), Francis de Croisset, General de Gaulle (exhibited at the "Salon" and purchased by the French Nation and housed at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris), Lord Athlone, Lord Nuffield (purchased by the Nuffield Institute) Président Cassin, Hailie Selassie, John Winant, to mention only a few, have found their way into many exhibitions and art galleries both in England and abroad.

In recognition of her distinguished work as a sculptress, she was awarded in 1948 by the French Government the Cross of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

It may be interesting to our readers to hear how Madame Bingguely made the acquaintance of the General. This *recontre* was quite accidental and not without a touch of romance.

One fine day, an old lady of 82, living in Switzerland decided to fly for the first time in her life to London in order to visit her children. Madame Bingguely went to the airport to welcome the venerable visitor, who, by the way, was the mother of her husband, and on that very occasion she met General Guisan. Struck by the expression of his face, she decided there and then, to make his bust, but this was easier said than done.

Being approached by some of his Friends with the request of the sculptress, he sternly declared "Je ne veux poser pour personne". But if a lady insists. . . .

Having in the meantime had an opportunity of admiring some of the works of Madame Bingguely, the General capitulated, and the artiste started on her work at her studio in Sussex, and before long the first model in clay crossed the Channel in the car and was brought for sittings on several further occasions to the home of the General at Pully, Lausanne.

Meanwhile Monsieur and Madame Bingguely returned to Switzerland where they found a residence at Corseaux sur Vevey. Here at once began the quest to obtain a suitable *atelier*, an undertaking which proved to be most difficult as none could

be found. What was there to be done? Madame Bingguely resolutely and charmingly declared "on n'abandonne pas son Général" and to solve this problem it was decided to build one.

After extensive efforts, fraught with many disappointments a suitable site was found at La Baume sur Chardonne, where ere long the studio to harbour the bust of the General, came into being.

As the French say, "l'appétit vient en mangeant", Monsieur Bingguely, known to his London friends as a man of action, decided to build around the *atelier* a chalet surrounded by a beautiful garden. Both were in time completed and are much admired by all passers by.

General and Madame Guisan paid several visits there and in this inspiring *entourage* the artiste completed her work which began in her studio amongst the Sussex Downs.

And now, Paris has recently received the bust of Général Guisan and has deservedly accorded it a place of honour at the famous "Salon". At the official opening, the Artiste was warmly congratulated by Monsieur Vincent Auriol, President of the French Republic, who greatly admired the bust.

Madame Bingguely was much attracted by our General, in fact so much so that she abandoned, only for the time being we hope, her work on a bust of Field Marshall Montgomery, in order to finish the one of his Swiss colleague.

We feel sure that our compatriots, and the many friends of Madame Bingguely in this country, will be delighted to hear of her latest success in her career of great achievements.

ST.



Madame Ginette Bingguely-Lejeune with bust of General Guisan.