

Atelier Acacia

Présentation

L' Workshop Acacia, located at Mount-Dolphin in Guillestrois, exists since 1982. Danny Martin, at the time, manufactured very pretty terra cotta clocks. But their slow and expensive manufacture was not very profitable. When it met Joseph Auvrey, they quickly had the idea to manufacture sundials. As a geometrician, Joseph made studies of astronomy which brought the bases necessary to him to the cosmographic level. Then, it is by a personal research task which it arrived at knowledge that it has aujourd' today "This work, he says us, is interesting because it calls as well upon astronomy with the esthetism". Indeed, the always harmonious decoration of each dial requires a real artistic talent.



In addition to the sundials, they continue today to make pendulums but their manufacture is made easier by material used: earthenware indeed requires 4 to 5 times less time to carry them out than the terra cotta. They also make other decorative and utility objects very appreciated, like crockery, plates decorative, soap-dishes, candlesticks, etc. at very reasonable prices. And they also make tables of orientation.

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Technique

IL exists several kinds of sundials. Those manufactured by the Workshop Acacia, are either in earthenware squares for smallest, or in enamelled lava. The ones "not declining" are intended to be posed on a wall directed full south. The layout of the time lines is then symmetrical compared to the line of sight. When it is a question of posing a sundial on a wall directed in another direction, one envisages a sundial called "declining" (like that affixed on the frontage of their store directed full west). The site of the time lines is then calculated according to the prevalence of the hours of sunning of the morning or the evening. A dial directed full west like that of their workshop, i.e. declining of western 71° , starts at midday and finishes with laying down sun.



To know...

> not-declining dials <

They are more often standard and can be carried at the time of the purchase. A note is then given which makes it possible to direct them southern pile full. In general the frontage is not it completely, which obliges to catch up with the angle with a hold or by an unspecified process. They are much less expensive than the personalized dials. The majority of the standard sundials sold to the customers of passage are reproductions old dials of the area, the name which accompany them being the site by the original dial. Made of only one square, the small dials are often sold with a rest to put them on a piece of furniture.

> declining dials <

The "declining" dials are single parts made to measure by assembly of squares. They are personalized by a currency,

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Fabrication

Joseph Auvrey uses serigraphy as means of reproduction of the drawings and the texts that it is for the sundials or the tables of orientation. What gives a perfect quality style printing works. More readable and prettier, serigraphy is a brilliant process which allows any type of writing, a beautiful smoothness of more or less fine feature and even of screen with possibility of realizing grayed.

Pour all the dials, Joseph Auvrey paints initially a drawing on vegetable copy. Then it must carry out a very opaque transparent film on the level of the drawing by using Indian ink because serigraphy requires to have a perfectly opaque drawing. Once that the film is made, it uses a process of clothes industry of framework of serigraphy which is a process of reproduction of photograph: on a framework out of wooden nylon is tended, which one calls a silk, monochromic nylon which is relatively expensive and which is very regular on the level of the meshes and which can absorb a rather strong tension. Above, it deposits an emulsion sensitive to the light, it coats the screen on the two sides and it uses a box of insolation, i.e. a source of light above it puts a transparent ice, then on this ice it puts an opaque film and then its screen which is not insulated yet. The process consists in making function the source of light during approximately ten minutes so that the light fixes the emulsion everywhere except where there is the opaque drawing. Then, it makes disappear the emulsion which was not fixed with a shower and it obtains the final screen which will enable him to make 300 or 400 sundials quickly.



Lhas enamelled lava is the material which it generally uses to make its sundials. It makes cut out squares with Volvic in its supplier of lava according to precise formats'. Then, it cleans them, passes a filler to them because there are always residual holes, then it carries out enamelling. To enamel, a compressor and a gun with enamelling are used. The squares are posed on boards in a cabin of enamelling. Once the enamelled squares, is it makes the first cooking, which it calls a cooking of white with the a little ocré bottom or a little pink which will be useful to him for serigraphy, is it applies serigraphy directly to enamel raw. This process is rather used to make the single parts and for all that must be made with the hand.

To know...

> [furnaces](#) <