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ART AND DESIGN IN KAIKOURA

Four years ago, Brigitte and Walter KUNZ emigrated from Switzerland to New Zealand. They left behind a thriving business, which they had run for 18 years just outside of Zurich, making picture frames and doing restoration work.

Upon their arrival in New Zealand they were quickly drawn to the South Island and eventually settled in Kaikoura with the mountains, that reminded them of Switzerland, in the background and their workshop and gallery overlooking the sea.

Both brought to New Zealand an expertise in their respective fields not yet seen in New Zealand.

Brigitte has been a gilder for more than 25 years. She is also a tutor and was considered an expert even in Switzerland where the craft is much more common than here.

Walter designs, paints and does wall sculptures in wood.

Their Kaikoura Mirrors are famous around the world. The top of the market beautifully gilded frames in 12-22 carat gold leaf are works of art in themselves, each one unique.

Restoration work has also become a part of their business as the ancient craft is exhibited and people come to appreciate the lifetime beauty of gilded pieces of art.

If you happen to pass through Kaikoura one day, do make a stop and call on Brigitte and Walter. You will find them at 129 Scarborough St, Kaikoura Ph/Fax 03 319 6640. You are sure to be welcome.



Brigitte and Walter in their beautiful gallery showing an example of one of their unique Kaikoura Mirrors.

THE OCHSNER CORPORATION NOW OVER 150 YEARS OLD.

It may come as a surprise that in this world of fast changing habits, the garbage container which every Swiss knows as "Ochsnerchübel" is still in use although it is over 100 years old.

Although the "Ochsnerchübel", with its famous mice-proof lid, had to make way to the plastic rubbish bags, it is still widely used in factories, weekend homes and on farms as a "Güselchübel".

Inventor of the container was a certain Jakob Ochsner, the son of Johann Jakob Ochsner who founded in 1846 the "Mechanische Wagerei und Wagen Fabrik" in Oberhallau (Schaffhausen).

In 1897 Jakob Ochsner not only invented his famous container but also the fully closed-in horse-drawn cart to go with it. The ingenuity of the system was that the lid of the container hooked into the lid of the cart. By pushing up the container, both lids opened up to let the content fall into the cart. By lowering the empty container, both lids closed up again simultaneously. It was a simple but most ingenious system which reduced enormously the garbage smell and, in adverse weather, prevented the rain from soaking the garbage inside the cart.

Today Ochsner AG is based in Urdorf (ZH) and its main activity lies now in the setting up of complete rubbish disposal systems for municipalities and large manufacturing concerns. After 150 years, Ochsner still remains tops in the Swiss rubbish disposal business.

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