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## Industrial estates to come

HM cong president

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# Muscat Festival 2015

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# Magic of Poitou-Charentes is at work

Lina Bonnet carries art of framing to new level with total mastery of 17th and 18th century styles

DAVID SOLOMON  
MUSCAT

THE FRENCH PAVILION inside the International Village for Arts and Crafts is abuzz and alive with activity and joie de vivre as the new contingent of artists, and crafts persons have begun to attract visitors to their stalls with their special brand of enchantment. They come all the way from the Poitou-Charentes region of south-western France, with its balmy weather, windswept and sunny beaches, rolling farmlands and sleepy villages to work their magic in different ways.

The first familiar face you come across out here is Christel Valenza. Last year she was here as the coordinator of the group. This year too she is shouldering a similar responsibility along with



Lina Bonnet at her stall.



Some of Lina's framed collage works done with wooden pieces.

David Solomon/Oman Tribune



Baddeley x14

another colleague.

"This year we're here with a much smaller group of 9 to 10 artists in comparison to nearly 20, who had come in last year.

The next familiar face in the pavilion is Lina Bonnet, who welcomes you with a beaming smile. She is the only artist from the group that was here for the Muscat Festival 2014.

"But this time I have many new things to show and exhibit; many new techniques to share with all the visitors and guests, which I'm sure everyone will love".

This time she showcases her work with framed and decorated mirrors and framed collage works done with wooden pieces.

Graduate of the Union Cen-

trale des Arts Decoratifs (Central Union of Decorative Arts) Lina is a picture framer with total mastery of the 17th and 18th century styles and techniques of elegant and artistic framing. She is the winner of several awards from competitions run by the National Union of Gilders and Framers in France.

With over 25 years of experience in her line of artistic framing, Lina has now opened a training centre 'Cadres et Loisirs'.

"I would like to pass on the knowledge and know-how about my art to other people, my training centre welcomes student from around the world," she said.

Speaking about her work Lina says: "Creation is a pleasure that comes in the conception and execution of

a piece. Often it is the content and form of the work to be framed and its ambience

which inspire me and make me play or experiment with the materials that I use: hand-

made paper, cardboard, gold and silver leaf, silk cord, netting and scrolls".



Christel Valenza with the officials of the Muscat Municipality.