

Interflora World Cup Competition

Gil BOYARD biography **French competitor**

Brought up in a family of horticulturist, Gil Boyard lived among plants and close to greenhouses during his childhood, in the western part of France.

He planned to study sciences instead of following his father's footsteps and being a plant wholesaler...

But flower power was too attractive: after 2 years in secondary school, he chose to learn how to be a good florist. He was mentored by 2 well-known florists he had met when he was young: Jacques Basille (European competitor, Winner of the French Florist Cup in 1979) and Philippe Monville (Interflora France Chairman).

It took him only 2 years to get the florist certificate and, then he chose to go and work in Paris.

He realized that he needed to work with a "mentor" in order to reach his final dream: being one of the Best Craftsmen in France.

He started to work with Jean Michel Mertens (one of the Best Craftsmen in France and World Champion) in his shop in the Paris suburbs period. He wanted to get the best experience and know-how possible.

He became manager of the shop and won several competitions (Ile de France florist gold cup 2002, Silver Prestige Hortiflor Show 2003, finalist of the French Florist Cup in 2003 and.....became one of the Best Craftsmen of France in 2004!)

A new world was ahead of him. He was selected to become a member of Interflora Art Floral Group in 2004 and became the owner of J.M. Mertens' store in 2005.

Several press publications described his professional life. Gil Boyard published a book "Structures en art floral" with Muriel Le Couls another one of the Best French Craftsmen.

Now, Gil is completely ready to teach his craft and skills, and share his passion with all talented florists. He is an active member of several professional associations and schools in Paris.

Somehow the future champions are gathered in his own shop:

Anthony Maresq, winner of Interflora France "Coupe Espoir" Nicolas Rosières, competitor of the French florist Cup in 2009 Clément Petit, competitor of the International "Worldskills Games" in Calgary, Canada in 2009.

One of Gil Boyard's ultimate goals is to be a competitor in one of the best international competitions. He has made the first step by being selected in April 2009 as the French contestant for the March 2010 Interflora World Cup Competition in Shanghai.....