PORTRAIT OF A WIND-UP MAKER.

My name is Jose Manuel, but everybody calls me “Chema”. And I make clockwork toys. I am a wind-up maker. I am a wind-up artist.

I started like 10 years ago when we came here. One day my son came with a broken toy he´d found on the street and I fixed it. And then I thought...all right, I can improve this, I think I can create something better.

We had to leave Spain looking for a job. I was an architect there.

You know at the beginning you think that it is going to be easy, that you´ll find a job soon, and that everything is going to be all right ...But things are not so easy.

The materials I use I find them on the street. And you know, I think there is something special about it. You know...recycling stuff. For me it´s like giving things a new life, a second chance.

You know, when something is old, or something newer appears, we just get rid of it. I mean, we do it even with people. But most of the time we can find them a new utility. You know...we don´t have to throw them to the bin. It´s...it´s about giving new opportunities, like new chances.

Why I do this? Well, because...this is my life, this is all I have. And since my son died, I have no family, and I have no friends... and this keeps me busy.

This is my family now.

And no one is going to hire me as an architect now, so this is my job.

You know when I am not working on this I just go to a canal and I sit there. And I just wait. And see how my life passes and I get older. Till the day I die.

No, I´m not coming back to Spain. I don´t want to come back. And I´m an artist now, so I have nothing to do there.

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Dario Perez Moreno

almaziga@gmail.com