

CRS NC

• CRAFT/PROFESSION

René CLEMENT designs and crafts decorative homeware items in stainless steel: lighting and lamps, wall lights, sculptures, penholders and phone holders.

René traces each design on stainless steel before cutting it out using a plasma cutter. Plasma cutting is a precision fusion-cutting process using a jet of high-temperature ionised air to melt the metal. The design is finished and polished using a grinding wheel and a welding station.

• BACKGROUND

René studied for a BEP diploma in steel structures then began work as a welder for a structural steel business. He went on to work for a boilermaker before moving on to an industrial pipework company. After 15 years in the steel industry, René needed to undergo an operation and unfortunately could not continue in his line of work.

In considering retraining options, René decided on using his skills to craft steel designs requiring flair and precision. His new work requires him to use the same tools but in very different ways.

• INSPIRATION AND DESIGNS

René says he loves working on pieces inspired by the emblems of New Caledonia and local plants and wildlife. Favourite themes in his designs include kagu birds, rooftop totems, Kanak huts, hibiscus flowers and sea creatures... His imagination knows no bounds and he is happy to turn his skill to creating personalised orders.

