

French entrepreneur invents bicycle-powered hearse

Vocabulary Match

- a mash-up • a brainchild • a coffin • a hearse • a procession •
• a casket • a parade • a creation • a funeral car • a combination

Article

An unusual-looking cargo bike is attempting to shake up the funeral business in France.

The 'Corbicyclette', a mash-up of the French words for hearse and bicycle, is the brainchild of Isabelle Plumereau.

She runs a small funeral home called 'The Sky and the Earth' in Paris.

Her new cargo bike is designed to take full-sized coffins, in the place of traditional, motor-driven hearses.

The Corbicyclette allows for "a slow, silent, quiet procession, to the rhythm of the steps of the people who walk along with it."

Similar 'Corbicyclettes' already exist in the United States and Denmark.

Plumereau's version is two meters long and has electric assistance, which enables it to tackle steeper roads. This cargo bike will be the first in France and its services should be available this autumn.

Quiz

1. What is a Corbicyclette?
2. In what way is it better than a motor-driven hearse??

Conversation:

Husband: When I pop off, I'd like a big funeral; poetry, opera, trumpets, violins, flowers, the works!

Wife: Is that right? And just who do you think will organize all that? And with what money?

Husband: I'm sure you'll manage. I want a beautiful, mahogany casket, and a horse-drawn hearse!

Wife: Hmm... how about we put you in a wheelbarrow, with some nice fresh vegetables?

Discussion

1. Paris is transforming itself into a city for cyclists. What do you think about that?
2. Have you ever ridden an e-bike? What are some advantages of electric bikes?
3. Have you ever pulled, or ridden in, a rickshaw? Could they make a comeback? Why or why not?
4. Should people dance at a funeral? Discuss 😊