

call for application ↪

↪ ENSA LIMOGES

INTERNATIONAL POST-GRADUATE COURSE

“KAOLIN” ART AND DESIGN IN CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS

ÉCOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE D'ART DE LIMOGES

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130 YEARS OF TEACHING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION IN ART, DESIGN AND CERAMICS

Limoges École Nationale Supérieure d'Art (ENSA) is one of nine art schools run under the auspices of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

Its origins go back to Limoges municipal art school, founded in 1868 by art collector and museum director Adrien Dubouché. The school then became a French National School of Decorative Art in 1881 with the mission to improve aesthetic standards in porcelain, thus reflecting new links being forged between industry and the arts throughout Europe at the time.

Today, ENSA Limoges offers a stimulating environment where interactions between art and technology are studied in the fields of contemporary art, design and ceramics. Historical connections with porcelain and ceramics are enriched by the teaching of a broad range of multidisciplinary subjects that tackle contemporary issues in art. Territory and materials represent two fundamental areas of interest in the school, where "earth/clay" is conceptualised not only as material matter but also as land(scape) and heritage. Another direction of teaching examines object design – seen as art in use – used as a pathway leading to interaction with commercial and cultural spheres. Theoretical and practice-based elements often connect with technological innovation and implicate students in projects with partners in areas of culture, industry and research.

Coursework and diplomas at ENSA Limoges (up to the grade of *Master* validated by the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research) are designed to equip graduates for professional work in many fields of the art world and open the door to doctorate or postgraduate courses in other institutes of higher education.

"KAOLIN" – ART AND DESIGN IN CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS INTERNATIONAL POST-GRADUATE COURSE

"Kaolin" is an international postgraduate course in contemporary ceramics, initiated in October 2011. Its central subject is «ceramics and urban space», piloted at ENSA with the backing of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication and the European Ceramics Centre. Privileged partners include the Heterogeneous Materials Study Group (GEMH), EA 3178 research laboratory at the National School of Industrial Ceramics in Limoges (ENSCI) and the Limoges-based Centre for Research in Clay and Kiln Arts (CRAFT).

The programme (from February 2013 to February 2014) is designed to help students develop their own research and ceramic projects at ENSA Limoges, in Shanghai and at ENSA's creative study studio in the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, University of Jingdezhen, in China.

The first phase, from February to March, takes place at ENSA Limoges, where solid foundations are laid in ceramics culture and contacts made with factories, art networks and ENSA professionals.

The second phase of the program consists of a 3 month residency in China in Shanghai and Jingdezhen, at ENSA/ JCI studio where artists can take advantage of the school's connections and networks with factories, artists and professionals.

Students then return to Limoges for the third and final phase of the course. Projects should then be completed and presented to ENSA's scientific council and also to the artistic and scientific committee at CRAFT who will select projects for further development and inclusion in the CRAFT collection.

A collective exhibition of the work will be organised in France and China in 2014. This will be accompanied by publication of a catalogue recording research, experiments and items produced during the course.

The exhibition of work by our first group of graduates in 2012 is currently being held at the French National Porcelain Museum, Cité de la céramique Sèvres & Limoges, Musée National Adrien Dubouché.

FOR YOUNG ARTISTS, DESIGNERS OR POSTGRADUATES **ENGAGED IN THE FIELD OF CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS**

“Kaolin” is intended for young artists, designers and postgraduates in the humanities (level Master II or professional equivalence) wishing to develop a research project combining high-level technical and practical know-how with innovative ideas in art and ceramic design.

Our Objectives

- enable young designers develop advanced research in the field of creative ceramics for the urban environment
- foster emergence of novel creative ceramics in France and abroad
- help young artists and designers find their own voice in contemporary ceramic culture
- aid dissemination and impact of research projects through artistic and professional international channels.

A POSTGRADUATE COURSE BACKED ON RESEARCH PROJECT **“CERAMICS AND URBAN SPACE”**

Recognised both by the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the European Ceramics Centre, “Ceramics and urban space” is a project (2011-2014) that focusses on theoretical as well as practical ways of incorporating ceramics in urban environments, an ambition which ENSA Limoges considers best adapted to artists and designers who can think beyond what is technically possible, crossing boundaries between architecture, the humanities, material sciences and artistic endeavour.

Many artists are unaware of the latest research in materials, especially those derived from porcelain.

The project investigates how new ceramic materials can influence art and how cutting-edge research in ceramic materials can benefit from the input of artists and designers.

Artists and designers frequently intervene in public spaces, often as the result of public commissions.

However “Ceramics and Urban Spaces” seeks new ways of incorporating the largely unexplored possibilities of ceramics in town planning and projects for urban environments.

LIMOGES

WORLD CLASS FACILITIES FOR CERAMICS

Bridging the worlds of art and technology.

ENSA's 500m² porcelain workshop is unique in Europe, covering a full range of production techniques (model and mould-making, casting, glazing and firing) on a scale similar to a professional factory, with room for up to thirty students, technicians and tutors.

The art school's buildings are amongst the largest in France. They include 2200m² of workshops, representing half of the school's overall teaching spaces and 30% of the total ground area. Workshops are divided into five main groups according to specialisation:

- **Kiln Crafts** / porcelain, glass
- **Multimedia** / photo-video, computer graphics, 3D modelling
- **Object Design** / volume, model-making, jewellery
- **Textiles** / soft materials, dyeing
- **Printing** / screen printing, publishing, lithography, typography

Students benefit from exceptional tools and equipment, ranging from rare 19th century Busseur lithographic presses to the latest generation of Objet's Eden 3D printers.

In touch with industrial and ceramic networks.

Membership of the European Ceramics Centre makes ENSA Limoges one of only five French art and design schools to belong to a "competitive cluster", a collaborative structure set up between industries, research laboratories and higher education institutions, founded in 2004 and recognised as a key element of industrial development in France. This involvement strengthens the original mission of the School which was to teach decorative arts applied to the porcelain industry.

ENSA Limoges has close ties with other towns historically connected with ceramics. As an active participant in the UNIC Network (Urban Network for Innovation in Ceramics) and global porcelain route, the school currently organises exchanges and common projects with Faenza, Italy (Istituto Superiore per le Industrie Artistiche, Museo Internazionale delle Ceramiche di Faenza), Stoke-on-Trent, UK (Staffordshire University, Faculty of Art, Media and Design; British Ceramic Biennial), Cluj-Napoca, Romania (University of Art and Design, French Institute), Pécs, Hungary (University of Pécs, Faculty of Music and Visual Art; Zsolnay Museum), Castellon, Spain (Escola d'Art I Superior de Disseny de Castelló) and with Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute in China. The city of Jingdezhen is associated with the UNIC network through the Global Porcelain Route initiated by Limoges City Council and local authorities in Aveiro (Portugal), Castellon and Seville (Spain), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Delft (Netherlands), Faenza (Italy), Pécs (Hungary), Stoke-on-Trent (UK), Selb (Germany), Gangjin Icheon (South Korea) and Seto (Japan).

LIMOGES / SHANGHAI / JINGDEZHEN

RESEARCH IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND CERAMICS IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

The challenge for young designers today is how to become part of a complex, globally interconnected world of professionals, where skills in creating, producing and selling form the basis of successful businesses.

During the seventeenth century, aspiring artists completed their education by going on a "grand tour" of antique sites in Italy to appreciate ideals of classical beauty in Rome and elsewhere. For modern artists and designers, a journey to China is a similarly eye-opening culture shock. As one of the largest cities in the world, Shanghai gives a close-up view of the effects of contemporary globalization and Jingdezhen provides first-hand experience of the world's capital of ceramics.

LIMOGES / JINGDEZHEN

THE JOINING OF TWO WORLD CAPITALS OF CERAMICS

For centuries the town of Jingdezhen, located in Jiangxi Province, has maintained artistic, industrial and commercial ties with Limoges. It became Imperial China's ceramic capital when kaolin, the essential ingredient for making true porcelain, was discovered there in the fourteenth century. Indeed, the name kaolin comes from Gaolin, the original china-clay quarry near Jingdezhen. The Jesuit Francis Xavier Entrecolles (1664-1741), a native of the diocese of Limoges, following mission work in Jingdezhen was the first European to reveal the secrets of porcelain manufacture. In two letters dated 1st September 1712 and 25th January 1722, he gave a detailed account of the clays, pigments and firing techniques employed in Jingdezhen. Almost 50 years later, in 1768, high quality kaolin deposits were found at Saint-Yrieix-La-Perche, triggering the birth of the porcelain industry in nearby Limoges.

JINGDEZHEN

A STUDIO FOR EXPERIMENTATION AND GATEWAY TO THE CITY'S POTENTIAL

ENSA's studio space in the heart of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute is designed as a place for research, design and prototyping, fitted with all the necessary equipment to carry this out (lathes / throwing wheels, slab rollers, power tools, studio furniture etc.). Jingdezhen itself is seen as an open workshop for production of pieces. Resources such as public kilns, workshops for modelling, mould-making, and decoration are vital elements, providing total immersion in the professional environment of porcelain manufacturers. Links with local craft-workers, industrial producers and artistic specialists help establish a practical network of contacts while working on personal projects and following a series of seminars proposed by the school with a selection of guest artists and teachers from China, France and other countries.

Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute is a university based on two campuses where over 15,000 students study subjects related to careers in ceramics (e.g. engineering, art, design, management). Three national research laboratories and their related technical institutes are based in Jingdezhen (National Engineering Research Center for Domestic & Building Ceramics, Ceramic Research Institute for Light Industry of China, China Ceramic Research Center) together with different schools or universities from other countries that have their own study programmes and buildings, such as the West Virginia University International Ceramic Studio which is located on the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute campus. Students at the ENSA Studio therefore can benefit from a unique artistic environment in close contact with an extensive industrial and craft-based infrastructure entirely devoted to ceramics.

PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATED RESEARCH INSTITUTES

Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute, University of Jingdezhen, China
Xi-Yi Tang, Shanghai, China
National School of Industrial Ceramics, Heterogeneous Materials Study Group, EA 3178
Centre for Research in the Fired Arts and Clay (CRAFT), Limoges
European Centre for Ceramics, Limoges
Ciré de la céramique, Sèvres & Limoges, Adrien Dubouché National Museum of Porcelain, Limoges
Limoges Municipal Authorities
Union of Porcelain Manufacturers in Limoges
UNIC Network (Urban Network for Innovation in Ceramics)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French Institute
Ministry of Culture and Communication

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Course students will be asked to develop an ambitious artistic project defined after discussions with teaching staff in order to ensure the best conditions for production, dissemination, communication and promotion of the final project.

The programme includes individual meetings and group discussions with teachers and artists involved in the post-diploma course both in France and in China. You will be expected to contribute your ideas to the school's "Ceramics and urban space" research project (2011-2014), and also take part in seminars, conferences, study days and exhibitions.

Once enrolled you will be free to take advantage of all the school's facilities; lessons, access to teaching staff and guests, library resources, equipment, tools and workshops. Technical assistants will also be available to help you carry out your projects. During the course, all students are strongly encouraged to profit from contacts and collaborations with the school's many partners in industry and the world of art.

→ APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must have a Master degree level (Master II) in relevant postgraduate subject areas (art, design, communication, art history, social sciences and humanities, sociology, geography, ethnology, art criticism). Five places are reserved for candidates from the creative fields of art and design, and one place is reserved for a candidate from the humanities registered on a PhD course who wishes to develop creative research on individual or collective experiences in the context of international exchanges between Europe and Asia. Applications are welcome from all candidates, regardless of gender or nationality.

Successful candidates must be prepared to give a commitment to follow the entire course without any exceptions. For non-French applicants, admission requires level B2 of the "TCF" (French Test for non-native speakers) or a working knowledge of English.

→ PLACES AVAILABLE

The number of students accepted on this course in 2013 is limited to 6, thus ensuring satisfactorily favourable conditions for every student to accomplish their research, development and production.

→ GRANTS

ENSA Limoges covers production and distribution costs of ceramics projects, travel between France and China, as well as providing an allowance to selected candidates for specific research requirements.

→ APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Annual recruitment takes place in two steps; (1) a preliminary selection based on portfolio and project proposition, (2) an interview. Candidates are judged according to their experience, motivation, quality of work and relevance of the proposed research project.

→ DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2013

Please send all documents to ENSA Limoges by post or email.

These should include the following items:

- an outline of your intended project on the theme of «ceramics and urban space» which will serve as the starting point for artistic or academic research
- a portfolio presenting your approach, artist's statement, past research, personal work in one or more fields (texts, photographic reproductions of work, artists' books, exhibition catalogues, etc.).
Or for candidates in the field of the humanities, please provide a record of scholarly work (publications, summaries of work previously undertaken etc.)
- a covering letter explaining why you are applying and what you hope to achieve on this postgraduate course
- the application form duly completed plus a passport-type photo
- copies of qualifications or diplomas accompanied by transcripts of assessors' comments
- a curriculum vitae
- photocopy of passport
- if you require return of your documents, please also enclose a stamped and self-addressed envelope

All documents should be submitted in French, but English is also accepted.

Candidates will be informed by post and/or email of receipt of application as well as selection results.



CONTACT

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