

King HOUNDEKPIKOU - Ceramic artist, sculptor

b. May 9, 1987 - Montreuil, France

info@kinghoundekpinkou.com

www.kinghoundekpinkou.com

Membership: Ateliers d'Art de France

Born in Montreuil, France, in 1987, King Houndekpinkou is a Franco-Beninese ceramicist who works and lives in Paris. In 2012, King's discovery of the six ancient pottery kilns of Japan encouraged him to visit Bizen, Japan, each year to acquire further knowledge and experience besides his fellow Bizen potters. There, King was seduced by their spiritual and ceremonial approach to creating ceramic works, which seemed reminiscent of Benin's animist cult of Voodoo. Following this epiphanic experience, King developed *Terres Jumelles*, a cultural program that consists in fostering a cross-cultural dialogue between the various pottery sites of Benin and Japan through the local practices of ceramics/pottery in both countries. Today, King blends clays and other materials from all continents to create works that combine creativity, craftsmanship, cross-cultural understanding and spirituality. He cultivates an attraction for the "beauty of imperfection" and purposely scratches, tears and repairs clay bodies often disfigured by texture and clay overload. His work is/has been showcased internationally at art fairs, museum exhibitions and biennales in Australia, Benin, Hong-Hong, Japan, Morocco, Senegal, Spain and USA.

Education

2014 – School of Art and Ceramics Technique, Porte de Vincennes, France

2013 - 2015 – Training under Bizen potter Toshiaki Shibuta, Bizen, Japan

2012 - 2014 – Mire Workshop, Village St Paul, Paris, France

Group exhibitions

2019

Visceral Clay: Look Don't Touch

Peters Projects, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

NCECA - Trans-Pacific Dialogue: Marrying Form and Surface Across the Globe

Collaborative Design Group – Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

2018

Biennale « De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg – Gestes & Merveilles »

Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État du Luxembourg (BCEE), Luxembourg
(curated by Jean-Marc Dimanche)

Céramique Contemporaine: les artistes de Viviane S.

Abbaye de Léhon, Dinan, France
(curated by Stéphanie Le Follic-Hadida, IAC/UNESCO)

Hier, Aujourd'hui, Demain – Parcours des Mondes 2018

Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

Palau de Casavells – Summer Exhibition

Palau de Casavells, Girona, Spain

Vasa Vasorum | The Vase in Contemporary Art + Design

Peters Projects, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
(curated by Garth Clark)

Business as Usual

Minnano Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

- 2017 *Clay Gulgong 2018: The Masters' Show*
Gulgong, New South Wales, Australia
- 2017 *Regarding George Ohr: Contemporary Ceramics in the Spirit of the Mad Potter*
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Florida, USA
(curated by Garth Clark)
- 2016 *Africa Blooms Japan*
Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2016 *Kaïdin & King: l'éternel de l'immatériel*
Espace Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France
- 2016 *Hommage au Bénin, 20 artistes contemporains Béninois*
Château de Tanlay, France
- 2015 *Subabiennale - Biennale de Dakar Dak Art' 2016 OFF*
CICAD - Dakar, Senegal
(curated by Salimata Diop)
- 2015 *Temps modernes, la mémoire de l'esclavage et l'art contemporain*
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France
- 2015 *Coco Fronsac & King*
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

Art fairs

- 2019 *Le Salon d'Objet d'Art 2019*
Le Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2019 *Art Fair Tokyo 2019*
Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, Japan
- 2018 *The Salon Art + Design*
Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA
- 2018 *AKAA - Also Known As Africa - Contemporary Art Fair*
Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
- 2018 *Art Paris Art Fair 2018*
Le Grand Palais, Paris, France
- 2017 *1-54 - Contemporary African Art Fair*
La Mamounia Palace, Marrakech, Morocco
- 2017 *The Salon Art + Design*
Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA
- 2017 *AKAA - Also Known As Africa - Contemporary Art Fair*
Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

- 2016
Art Paris Art Fair 2017
Le Grand Palais, Paris, France
- AKAA - Also Known As Africa - Contemporary Art Fair*
Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
- Art Paris Art Fair 2016*
Le Grand Palais, Paris, France

Solo exhibitions

- 2018
Thank you for the clay!
Fujiki Gallery, Shigaraki, Japan
- 2017
Time on Earth
Vallois America, New York, USA
- De Passage sur Terre*
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France
- 2016
Un dimanche à la galerie
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France
- Terre de Mémoire*
Centre – Arts & Cultures, Cotonou, Benin

Artist-in-residence

- 2018
Shigaraki Ceramic Culture Park, Shigaraki, Japan
- 2016
Le Centre Arts & Culture, Cotonou, Benin

Museum permanent collections

- Boca Raton Museum of Art – Boca Raton, Florida, USA
- Le Petit Musée de la Récade – Cotonou, Benin

Conferences / Panels / Symposiums / Lectures

- 2019
Trans-Pacific Dialogue: Marrying Form and Surface Across the Globe
Panel discussion featuring Glenn Barkley (AUS), Virginia Leonard (NZ), Andrew Casto (USA), David Hicks (USA) and Mindy Solomon (USA)
The University of Iowa / NCECA 2019, Minneapolis Convention Center, USA
- 2018
Lecture on personal work
Clay Gulgong 2018
Gulgong, New South Wales, Australia

2017

Regarding George Ohr: Contemporary Ceramics in the Spirit of the Mad Potter
Lecture on personal work
Florida Atlantic University, Florida, USA

2016

Terre de Mémoire
Residency conference / lecture
Le Centre Arts & Culture, Cotonou, Benin

Workshops

2018

Clay Gulgong 2018
Demonstration of building techniques
Gulgong, New South Wales, Australia

Publications

- *Trans-Pacific Dialogue: Marrying Form and Surface Across the Globe* – NCECA Journal n°40, March 2019
- *George Edgar Ohr “Mad Potter of Biloxi”* – La Revue de la Céramique et du Verre n°219, March 2018