

King HOUNDEKPIKOU, Ceramic artist, sculptor

b. May 9, 1987 - Montreuil, France

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Member of the International Academy of Ceramics (Geneva, Switzerland)

Member of the Homo Faber Network of the Michelangelo Foundation (Geneva, Switzerland)

Born in Montreuil (France), in 1987, King Houndekpinkou is a Franco-Beninese ceramicist who lives in Paris. He works in France, Benin and Japan. In 2012, his discovery of the *Roku Koyō* (the six ancient pottery kilns of Japan) encouraged him to visit Bizen, Japan, each year to acquire further knowledge and experience besides local potters. There, King was seduced by their spiritual and ceremonial approach to creating ceramic works, which was reminiscent of Benin's animist cult of Voodoo. Following this epiphanic experience, King developed *Terres Jumelles*, a 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 has developed a practice that merges tradition, spirituality and visceral creativity while crossing several "borders", whether they are cultural, geographical, generational, disciplinary, technical or historical. Mainly based on the vessel shape and sculptural works, King's practice involves blending materials (e.g.: clays, ashes, powders) from all continents. Though built on strong and proportionate shapes, his works seem disfigured by a surcharge of clay and lively textures that emulate the aesthetics of the Voodoo altars and fetishes of Benin. King is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics and his work is/has been regularly exhibited internationally at art/design fairs, museum exhibitions and biennales in Australia, Benin, Hong-Kong, Japan, Morocco, Senegal, Spain, South Korea 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

Solo exhibitions

2022

King Houndekpinkou: Bas-Reliefs & Dessins
Enseigne des Oudin, Paris, France

2021

King Houndekpinkou: Dans Mon Jardin...
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2020

King Houndekpinkou: Gravité
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2019

King Houndekpinkou: Belles Brutes
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2018

Thank you for the clay!
Fujiki Gallery, Shigaraki, Japan

2017

King Houndekpinkou: Time on Earth
Vallois America, New York, USA

King Houndekpinkou: De Passage sur Terre
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2016

Un dimanche à la galerie: King Houndekpinkou
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

Terre de Mémoire
Centre – Arts & Cultures, Cotonou, Benin

Biennales

2022

Le Bénin en Majesté
Librairie aux 4 Vents, Dakar, Senegal

Homo Faber – Crafting a More Human Future
Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Italy

2019

10th Korean International Ceramic Biennale
Incheon World Ceramic Center, Incheon, South Korea

Biennale Internationale des Métiers d'Art & Création
Révélation 2019 – "Le Banquet"
Le Grand Palais, Paris, France

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)

2016

Subabiennale - Biennale de Dakar Dak Art' 2016 OFF
CICAD - Dakar, Senegal
(curated by Salimata Diop)

Group exhibitions

2023

Art Du Bénin, d'Hier et d'Aujourd'hui: de la Restitution à la Révélation – Contemporain
Musée Mohammed VI d'Art Moderne & Contemporain, Rabat, Morocco

2022

Collection Viviane S.
Museu Del Càntir, Argentona, Spain

Ceramics Now
Galerie Italienne, Paris, France

Art Du Bénin, d'Hier et d'Aujourd'hui: de la Restitution à la Révélation
The Republic of Benin's Palace / Palais de la Marina, Cotonou, Benin

2021

SPRING
Sarah Scout Presents Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

1:54 – Redefining the Trends, Histories in the Making
Christie's London, London, UK

Royal Academy of Arts: Summer Exhibition 2021
Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

Cultural Affairs: Art Without Borders
Grassi Museum of Applied Arts, Leipzig, Germany

Contemporary Benin
Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

2020

International Academy of Ceramics Exhibition
Guozhong Ceramic Art Museum, Beijing, China

Là où l'Âme se Plaît
Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France
(Curated by Galerie Vallois and UNESCO)

2019

Polyartworks | Performer
Minnano Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Les Asen - Arts du Bénin – Parcours des Mondes 2019
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia

Visceral Clay: Look Don't Touch
Gerald 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

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

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)

Africa Blooms Japan
Cat Street Gallery, Hong Kong

2016

Kaïdin & King: l'éternel de l'immatériel
Espace Christiane Peugeot, Paris, France

Hommage au Bénin, 20 artistes contemporains Béninois
Château de Tanlay, France

2015

Temps modernes, la mémoire de l'esclavage et l'art contemporain
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

Coco Fronsac & King
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

Art fairs

2022

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair – New York
Harlem Parish, New York, USA

PAD Paris – Design + Art
Tuileries, Paris, France

Artgenève
Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland

Investec – Cape Town Art Fair
Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

2021

ST-ART – Foire Européenne d'art contemporain & de design
Parc des Expositions, Strasbourg, France

Art X Lagos
The Federal Palace, Lagos, Nigeria

AKAA - Also Known as Africa - Contemporary Art Fair
Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

1-54 - Contemporary African Art Fair - London

Somerset House, London, UK

Spring 1883 Art Fair

Sarah Scout Presents, Melbourne, Australia

Collect Art Fair: International Art Fair for Contemporary Craft and Design

Online + VIP Showroom w/ 50 Golborne, Paris, France

2019

The Salon Art + Design

Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA

KOGEI – Art Fair Kanazawa

The Share Hotels, Kanazawa, Japan

Art Fair Tokyo 2019

Tokyo International Forum, Tokyo, Japan

2018

Akaa - Also Known as Africa - Contemporary Art Fair

Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

Art Paris Art Fair 2018

Le Grand Palais, Paris, France

1-54 - Contemporary African Art Fair

La Mamounia Palace, Marrakech, Morocco

2017

Akaa - Also Known as Africa - Contemporary Art Fair

Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

Art Paris Art Fair 2017

Le Grand Palais, Paris, France

2016

Akaa - Also Known As Africa - Contemporary Art Fair

Le Carreau du Temple, Paris, France

Art Paris Art Fair 2016

Le Grand Palais, Paris, France

Artist-in-residence

2018

Shigaraki Ceramic Culture Park, Shigaraki, Japan

2016

Le Centre Arts & Culture, Cotonou, Benin

Museum / Institution / Private / Permanent collections

Grassi Museum of Applied Art – Leipzig, Germany

The Republic of Benin's Presidency – Cotonou, The Republic of Benin

Tokyo Embassy of the Republic of Benin – Tokyo, Japan

Gyeonggi Ceramic Museum Korea Ceramic Foundation – Gyeonggi, South Korea
Boca Raton Museum of Art – Boca Raton, Florida, USA
Barbara Bluhm-Kaul – Chicago, USA
Le Petit Musée de la Récade – Cotonou, Benin

Conferences / Panels / Symposiums / Lectures

2019

Public Program – *An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics*

Lecture on personal work

Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia

Educator's Program – *An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics*

Lecture on personal work

Manningham Art Studios, Melbourne, Australia

King Houndekpinkou: Connecting with the Clay, Beyond all Borders

Lecture on personal work

Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

King Houndekpinkou: Connecting with the Clay, Beyond all Borders

Lecture on personal work

Seika Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

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

2019

Educator's Program – *An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics*

Demonstration of building techniques

Manningham Art Studios, Melbourne, Australia

Public Program – *An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics*

Demonstration of building techniques

Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia

2018

Clay Gulgong 2018

Demonstration of building techniques Gulgong, New South Wales, Australia

Published materials

- 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