

King HOUNDEKPINOU, Artist

b. May 9, 1987 - Montreuil, France

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Label and studio : A GOOD SPACE® studio + creative hub, agood-space.com

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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 based in Paris. His practice spans France, Benin, and Japan. In 2012, his discovery of Roku Koyō—the six ancient pottery kilns of Japan—led him to begin annual visits to Bizen, where he deepened his skills alongside local artisans. There, he was profoundly influenced by the spiritual and ceremonial approach to ceramics, which resonated with the animist Voodoo traditions of his Beninese heritage. This transformative experience inspired the creation of Terres Jumelles, a cross-cultural program that fosters dialogue between the pottery communities of Benin and Japan through local ceramic practices. Today, King's work merges tradition, spirituality, and raw creative energy, traversing multiple "borders"—cultural, geographic, generational, disciplinary, technical, and historical. Centered around vessels and sculptural forms, his practice incorporates materials such as clay, ash, and powders sourced from across continents. While rooted in solid, proportionate shapes, his pieces often appear distorted by dense layers of clay and dynamic textures, evoking the aesthetics of Benin's Voodoo altars and fetishes. A member of the International Academy of Ceramics, King's work has been exhibited widely at international art and design fairs, biennales, and museum exhibitions in countries including Australia, Benin, Hong Kong, Japan, Morocco, Senegal, Spain, South Korea, and the United States. In 2025, he launched A GOOD SPACE®, a creative studio and hub in the heart of Melun, France, which also operates as a creative label.

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

2024

Six Prayers

Southern Guild Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

2022

Bas-Reliefs & Dessins

Enseigne des Oudin, Paris, France

2021

Dans Mon Jardin...

Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2020

Gravité

Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2019

Belles Brutes

Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

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: King Houndekpinkou

Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

Terre de Mémoire

Centre – Arts & Cultures, Cotonou, Benin

Biennales / World Expo

2025

World Expo 2025 – Expo Osaka 2025 – Pavillon du Bénin

Yumeshima, Osaka, Japon

2024

Révélation China – International Biennial of Craft and Creation

National Agricultural Exhibition Centre, Beijing, China

2023

Révélation: Biennale Internationale des Métiers d'Art et de la Création

Le Grand Palais Ephémère, Paris, France

2022

Le Bénin en Majesté, Dakar Biennale OFF

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

2025

Sacred Intersection
Muse Contemporary Gallery, Istanbul, Turkey

2024

Liberatory Living: Protective Interiors and Radical Black Joy
Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), San Francisco, USA

Révélations! Art Contemporain du Bénin
La Conciergerie – Palais de la Cité, Paris, France

Révélations! Art Contemporain du Bénin
Fondation Clément, Le François, Martinique

2023

Parcours des Mondes 2023: King Houndekpinkou & Franck Zanfanhouédé
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

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 1883
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

2025

Contemporary Istanbul BLOOM

Istanbul, Turquie

Quarantine Art Fair

Point Nepean, Melbourne, Australia

2024

Design Miami/

Miami Beach, Florida, USA

Investec – Cape Town Art Fair

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

Ceramic Brussels 2024

Tours & Taxis, Brussels, Belgium

2023

Design Miami/

Miami Beach, Florida, USA

2022

1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair – New York

Harlem Parish, New York, USA

Untitled Art Fair

Miami Beach, Miami, USA

Enter Art Fair

Tunnelfabriken, Copenhagen

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

1:54 NYC Online - Contemporary African Art Fair
New York, USA

Collect Art Fair: International Art Fair for Contemporary Craft and Design
Online + VIP Showroom

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

The Salon Art + Design
Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA

Art Paris Art Fair 2018
Le Grand Palais, Paris, France

1-54 - Contemporary African Art Fair
La Mamounia Palace, Marrakech, Morocco

2017

The Salon Art + Design

Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA

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

Brand collaborations

2023

Glenfiddich x King Houndekpinkou: Tokyo After Dark

Harrods, London, UK

Artist-in-residence

2024

Southern Guild Artist-in-Residence Program, Cape Town, South Africa

2018

Shigaraki Ceramic Culture Park, Shigaraki, Japan

2016

Le Centre Arts & Culture, Cotonou, Benin

Museum / Institution / Private / Permanent collections

Private collection of The Duke of Bavaria – Munich, Germany

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

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

Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia

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

Manningham Art Studios, Melbourne, Australia

Lecture / King Houndekpinkou: Connecting with the Clay, Beyond all Borders
Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan

Lecture / King Houndekpinkou: Connecting with the Clay, Beyond all Borders
Seika Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Panel / 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 / Clay Gulgong 2018 Gulgong
New South Wales, Australia

2017

Lecture / *Regarding George Ohr: Contemporary Ceramics in the Spirit of the Mad Potter*
Florida Atlantic University, Florida, USA

2016

Residency conference / *Terre de Mémoire*
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