

King HOUNDEKPINOU, Artist
b. May 9, 1987 - Montreuil, France
info@kinghoundedpinkou.com
www.kinghoundedpinkou.com

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

Agent: MTA Agency – London, UK – info@mtart.agency

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 Houndedpinkou 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

2025

Let My Soul Shatter...

Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

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

Museum Exhibitions

- 2025
German & International Ceramics Since 1946
Grassi Museum of Applied Arts, Leipzig, Germany
- 2024
Liberatory Living: Protective Interiors and Radical Black Joy
Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD), San Francisco, USA
- 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
- 2021
Cultural Affairs: Art Without Borders
Grassi Museum of Applied Arts, Leipzig, Germany
- 2020
International Academy of Ceramics Exhibition
Guozhong Ceramic Art Museum, Beijing, China
- 2019
An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics
Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 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)

Biennales / World Expos / International Exhibitions

- 2025
Forever is Now V
Giza Plateau, The Great Pyramids of Giza, Cairo, Egypt
- 2025
World Expo 2025 – Expo Osaka 2025 – Pavilion du Bénin
Yumeshima, Osaka, Japon
- 2024
Révélations China – International Biennial of Craft and Creation
National Agricultural Exhibition Centre, Beijing, China

- 2023
Révélations: 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*
Révélations 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
- 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
- 2022
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, U

- Contemporary Benin*
Fondation Donwahi, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- 2020
Là où l'Âme se Plaît
Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France
(Curated by Galerie Vallois and UNESCO)
- 2019
Polyartworks I Performer
Minnano Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- Les Asen - Arts du Bénin – Parcours des Mondes 2019*
Galerie Vallois, Paris, France
- 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 Vorum I 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
- 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
Tunnelfabrikken, 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

2025

La Rocabella, Toulon, France

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