

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

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

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

King Houndekpinkou (b. 1987) is a Franco-Beninese artist whose practice repositions the ceramic vessel as a form of spiritual transmission, cultural memory, and material intelligence. Working primarily with clay, his work expands ceramics beyond function and tradition, treating form as a bearer of identity, emotion, and ancestral traditions. He lives and works between France, Japan, and Benin and is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics (IAC).

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, Japan

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

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
- Rhodes Island Design Museum (RISD) permanent collection, Rhodes Island, USA

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