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ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE
DE LA CÉRAMIQUE

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
OF CERAMICS

2021

IAC

Congress
Rovaniemi/
Posio



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PRESS RELEASE

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“ON THE EDGE”

The 2021 International Academy of Ceramics Congress
ONLINE September 22-23, 2021



What does it mean to be working in ceramics today? What role does ceramic art play, not only in the art world, but also in the worlds of culture, health, the environment, and creative thinking? How are ceramic artists responding to our rapidly changing world?

Amidst the unprecedented upheaval caused by the global pandemic, the IAC is pleased to announce its 49th Congress. This year's theme “ON THE EDGE” is particularly significant in that it provides the opportunity to reimagine, rethink and restart a dialog that addresses both mainstream and margins within ceramic art, design and crafts. This unique virtual congress will be broadcast from Rovaniemi, Finland, and is open to all members of the public around the world. Participants will be able to stream content live as well as access it over the week following the Congress.

The Congress programme includes:

- 16 lectures and presentations from artists, researchers, curators, designers and academics representing 10 countries.
- Innovative virtual tours of the specially created Thematic Members' Exhibition, curated by Frédéric Bodet, and other national and international exhibitions.
- 19 Breakout Sessions, featuring presentations on topics both practical and personal.
- Opportunities to virtually meet and chat with some of the most established ceramic artists in the world.
- Exhibitions and presentations exploring the unique world of Lapland.
- A presentation showcasing the most recent new members of the Academy.

The Congress takes place over two days and will be available in both French and English. To facilitate the inclusion of speakers of other languages, texts of most presentations will also be available in Chinese and Spanish. Additionally, people from any time zone can participate since they can access content for a full week following the event. The complete programme, including abstracts of all presentations, is available on the Congress website:
<https://rovaniemi-posio2021.aic-iac.org/conferences/>

Registration is open until **September 17 at noon (UTC+3)** on the Congress website:
<https://rovaniemi-posio2021.aic-iac.org/registration/>

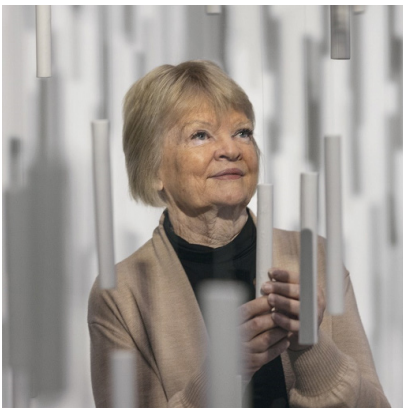
Conference Presentations:



Tapio Yli-Viikari

Lecture Title: “Approach to Northern Ceramics; Arabia – Pentik”

Tapio Yli-Viikari is emeritus professor of ceramic art, Aalto University, where he taught for thirty years (1986 – 2016). He has held numerous international professorships, served on multiple juries, and organised several international conferences. Between 2015-19 he was an initiator of the project Ceramics and its Dimensions: Shaping the future. Since 1995 he has been lecturing and working in China. IAC member since 2001.



Anu Pentik

Feature video on Anu Pentik

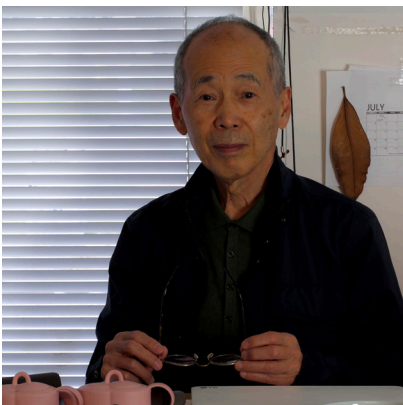
Anu Pentik has a long career behind her as a ceramicist and designer, which makes her recent debut as a visual artist all the more disarming in its freshness and vitality. For Pentik, clay is the natural medium for channelling her creative energies. In her hands it lends itself to everything from monumental installations to translucent, whisper-thin sculptural ensembles. She also paints on clay, but she uses many other materials as well.



Frédéric Bodet

“Remain Upright,” a film presentation on the IAC Thematic Members Exhibition.

Frédéric Bodet is the curator and vice president of the C-14 Paris ceramics fair, and former curator of Modern and Contemporary Collections at the Musée National de Céramique in Sèvres. He has curated numerous world-class ceramics exhibitions, including the «Circuit Céramique: La scène française contemporaine.» He has been a member of the IAC since 2019.



Suku Park

“Silent Journey,” a portrait of his life as a ceramist and art director, highlighting the impact of his Finnish surroundings on his outlook.

Suku Park (b.1947) is a Korean-born artist and designer in ceramics. Over his 50-year long career he has worked as an artist and organised international symposiums, workshops and exhibitions. From 2002 to 2011, he was a professor at Sangmyung University in Korea. As a commissioner of WOCEF he started the Korean Ceramic Expo and Biennale in Korea from 2001-2002. Currently he is an Art Director of the Arctic Ceramic Centre. He has been an IAC member since 1990 and served as the Council Member representative to Korea from 2014 to 2020.

**Nathalie Lautenbacher**

Lecture Title: "On Solid Ground"

French-Finnish ceramist and designer (b.1974) producing delicate porcelain tableware, unique ceramic art works and installations. Lautenbacher is a lecturer in design at her alma mater, Aalto University, School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Helsinki. IAC member since 2013.

**Adam Chau**

Lecture Title: "Undustrial Design"

Adam Chau is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and researches digital manufacturing within ceramics. In 2018 he received the NCECA Emerging Artist Award. Solo exhibitions include The Clay Studio, Manchester Craftsman's Guild, and Harvard Ceramics. International projects include work in The Netherlands, Italy, Taiwan, and China. IAC member since 2019.

**Michal Puszczynski**

Lecture Title: "The Modern Approach to Wood-Fired Ceramics"

Michal Puszczynski, PhD (b.1976), is a leading Polish ceramic artist working at the Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław, Poland. He creates large-scale sculptures and installations using clay and other ceramic materials. He was the first artist to introduce Poland to ceramic wood-firing techniques originating from the Far East. He has been awarded numerous scholarships and grants, including a 2019/2020 Fulbright Award. IAC member since 2019.

**Barbara Schmidt**

Lecture Title: "Thinking with Material – Ceramics in Design Processes"

Barbara Schmidt is a product designer with focus on porcelain, ceramics and glass, the head of design at KAHLA porcelain and also works in the field of exhibition design. Since 2014 she is professor for Experimental Design at Weißensee School of Art and Design Berlin.



Arild Berg

Lecture Title: “Ceramic Practice in Health Research – Making Public Art in a Hospital”

Arild Berg is professor in Artistic Research in Art, Applied Art and Design at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway, with a specialisation in Product Design including the ceramic tile, architectural ceramics and participatory methods in public art.



Dena Bagi

Lecture Title: “Clarification through Clay: Visualising Meaning-Making”

Dena Bagi is a practice-based researcher and lecturer. She works closely with community members and artists to curate clay workshops, projects and learning/play spaces. She believes passionately that working with clay can have a profound effect on ‘healing’.



Riikka Latva-Somppi

Lecture Title: “Soil as a Material Mediator: Combining Environmental Research with Ceramic Practice”

Riikka Latva-Somppi is a curator, artist-researcher and educator, working in the interfaces of art, design and craft. She is currently doing her doctoral research in the area of craft and environment in Aalto University, Finland.



Love Jönsson

Lecture Title: “Fairy Tales and Decadence – Recent Developments in Figurative Ceramic Sculpture in the Nordic Region”

Love Jönsson is the director of Rian designmuseum in Falkenberg, Sweden. He has written extensively on modern and contemporary ceramics in books, exhibition catalogues and periodicals, including Crafts magazine, Ceramic Review, and American Ceramics.



Priska Falin & Helen Felcey

Lecture Title: “What Is It All For?”

Priska Falin is a Finnish-based artist-researcher working at Aalto University. Falin explores ceramic materials and their processes from the experiential perspective. For Falin, clay is a being with material creating embodied connections through sense perception.



Helen Felcey is a ceramics-based artist, educator and curator. Helen tutors at Liverpool Hope University and is an associate curator for the British Ceramics Biennial. Alongside her work in arts and education, Helen is a trustee of the Gomde U.K. Tibetan Buddhist Centre.



Neil Brownsword

Lecture Title: “Beyond Preservation: Re-evaluating Intangible Cultural Heritage in the U.K. Ceramic Industry “

Neil Brownsword is an artist and ceramics professor at Staffordshire University, U.K. His practice examines the legacy of globalisation in relation to Stoke-on-Trent’s ceramic industry, and its impact upon people, place and traditional skills.



Ahmed Umar

Lecture Title: “Solace in Clay”

Ahmed Umar (b. 1988) is a Sudanese/Norwegian multidisciplinary artist based in Oslo, Norway. He is a graduate of the Oslo National Academy of the Arts. Beside ceramics, Umar’s practice includes painting, performance, installation, photography and more. He uses his personal experiences as the foundation for his work and as tools to discuss the silencing, demonizing and compromising of queer lives in both the Sudanese and international context.



Kianoosh Motaghedi

Lecture Title: “Female Iranian Ceramists: From the Beginning of Modernism to the Present Day”

Kianoosh Motaghedi (b.1982) is a ceramist and independent researcher in Islamic ceramics based in Tehran, Iran. In 2007 he was awarded first prize in the 8th Iranian Contemporary Ceramics Biennial. Since 2009 he has written extensively on Islamic ceramics and Iranian contemporary ceramists, publishing four books and contributing regularly to exhibition catalogues and art magazines. From 2017-2018 he completed two fellowships with the Louvre Museum and Musée du Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac in Paris.

IAC Members Thematic Exhibition

“On the Edge: Remain Upright”

Curated by Frédéric Bodet

Réalité sociale et politique
Sécurité versus Insécurité /
Relire l'Histoire

In this particular sculpture, the edge represents the limit dividing two opposites: the human yearning for control, in contrast with a fluent unrestrained nature. Shaped and intervened by human action, our contemporary environment is already showing signs of irreversible damage. My work is an attempt to recover

↓

Contrapunto, 2019
Adrien Colin (FR)

Gas kiln, 1300°, Reduction fire
Stoneware, porcelain and slips
56 cm x 51 cm x 45 cm
30 KG (approx.)

[Download Artist's file](#)
[Contact](#)

This unique and innovative virtual exhibition brings the work of IAC members to people all over the planet in a fresh and thoughtful way. Going far beyond the online exhibitions that have appeared during the pandemic, viewers can explore an intriguing virtual space and navigate the four themes of the exhibition: “Social and Political Reality,” “Signals from the Future,” “Locality and Materiality,” and “Making and Wellbeing.” The exhibition takes full advantage of its virtual nature, allowing us to see site-specific works that would otherwise be impossible to experience. A short film about the exhibition will be presented during the Congress.

Breakout Sessions:

Session 1: On the Edge

On the Edge – Máret Anne Sara, Artist and Author (Norway)

Critical Dialogues – Elaine Henry, Artist, Writer and Curator (United States)

Quartz Inversion: The Moment of Change – Adil Writer, Artist (India)

Session 2: Signals from the Future

Intangible Heritage – Monika Gass, Artist and Curator (Germany)

Holocene Park – Paul March, Artist (Switzerland)

Geometric Translations – Antra Sinha, Artist (India)

Living the Earth – Virginia Fróis, Associate Professor of Ceramics and Sculpture, Oficinas do Convento (Portugal)

Session 3: Making and Wellbeing

Pandemic Pills – Madhvi Subrahmanian, Artist (Singapore)

Environmental Degradation and Redemption: Healing through Making – Holly Hanessian, Artist and Educator (United States)

Naos - Self Temples – Estefania Valls, Artist (Guatemala)

Medalta / Reclaiming Making & Wellbeing – Trudy Golley, Artist and Educator (Canada)

Session 4: Locality and Materiality

The Wild Clay – Takuro Shibata, Artist (United States)

Hualien Paradise - Disappearing Culture of the Amis Earthenware Tradition in Taiwan – Wen-Hsi Harman, Artist (Chinese Taipei)

Manifesto for Clay – Julia Schuster, Artist (Austria)

Marking Time – Julie Bartholomew, Artist and Educator (Australia)

Session 5: Social and Political Reality

Canada C3: A Crucible – Paula Murray, Artist (Canada)

The Power of Ceramics to Express the Tragedy of Forced Migration – Patty Wouters, Artist (Belgium)

Without Borders - 9 Hungarian Artists – Judit Varga, Artist and Educator (Hungary)

It All Started with an Apple – Beril Anilanmert, Artist and Educator (Turkey)

