

From porcelain-making traditions to present-day art and design



ENSA Limoges is currently one of France's seven "écoles nationales supérieures d'art" (higher national art schools). Courses leading to first degree (DNA) and master degree (DNSEP) are proposed in art and design. In addition, a postgraduate research program for emerging international artists is organised in conjunction with Chinese Universities and Institutes.

ENSA's origins in Limoges go back to Adrien Dubouché's initial École municipale d'art (1868) which later became the École nationale d'art décoratif in 1881. The school's present building, designed in 1994 by architects Nicolas Michelin and Finn Geipel, is officially included on France's twentieth century architectural heritage list and provides a resolutely up-to-date environment in which to learn and work. A continued tradition of teaching porcelain-making and clay-based skills also covers glassmaking (in partnership with Meisenthal International Glass Centre) and decorating techniques for both ceramics and glass. To this is added a broad spectrum of creative fields that include classes in painting, photography, video and cinema, multimedia, 3D and 2D computer graphics, woodwork, 3D construction, object- and model-making, jewellery, textile arts, dyeing, editing/ printing, graphic arts, publishing and printing techniques.

Courses are provided by a team of forty or more tutors all active in the art world either as practising artists, academics or technicians. ENSA offers 7,500m² of multi-purpose studios where two hundred students can use state-of-the-art facilities. These include a ceramics research laboratory for 3D printing and a 500 m² porcelain workshop that is unique in Europe enabling the entire porcelain-making process to be carried out (3D-printing, forming, turning, moulding, casting, enamelling, firing).

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ENSA also boasts a specific workshop for contemporary jewellery (“POP bijou”) and a large printing workshop where a staff of seven teachers proposes multiple innovative pathways.



ENSA is located on the Limoges University campus, near the Arts and Humanities departments with whom the art school runs a joint master’s degree in “contemporary creative and cultural industries”. Every year, ENSA organises numerous residencies, workshops, conferences and day-long seminars with interventions from over 60 artists, designers, philosophers, authors, illustrators,

writers, goldsmiths, researchers, experts and creative entrepreneurs. The school’s network of connections stretches across France and abroad through Erasmus exchanges, for example with schools in China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Colombia and Morocco. Active partnerships are maintained with many art centres, museums, galleries, theatres, cinemas, opera houses, publishers and local industries, especially with nearby art centres at Vassivière, Meymac, Rochechouart and with the Artists’ Book Centre based in Saint-Yrieix-la-Perche, one of the largest of its kind in Europe. ENSA enhances and broadens its students’ experiences by organizing a dozen exhibitions and study trips in France and elsewhere every year.

ENSA Limoges School of Art is run under the authority of the French Ministry of Culture. Its courses are open to all.

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