

2026 IAC Congress

INHERITANCE AND INNOVATION



“Ceramics: Heritage and Innovation in the Capital of Porcelain” *52nd Congress of the International Academy of Ceramics, Jingdezhen, China*

Geneva, 25 March 2026 The International Academy of Ceramics (IAC), in partnership with Jingdezhen Ceramic University and the Jingdezhen Municipal Government, is pleased to announce the publication of the programme of the 52nd IAC Congress. This prominent event will take place in the historic city of Jingdezhen from 27 June to 2 July 2026.

A Comprehensive Programme Centered on Ceramic Thought & Practice

Over six days, the Congress will bring together leading artists, researchers and institutions for a programme that combines critical discussion with a large-scale exhibition platform.

Programme Highlights include:

A **carefully crafted academic programme**, addressing key questions shaping contemporary ceramics:

- **4 Keynotes** will be delivered by internationally recognised figures Wayne Higby, Bai Ming, Zhang Jie and Robert Hassan, whose contributions will span from historical to future perspectives, cross-cultural dialogue and emerging trends.
- **19 Academic lectures** exploring sub-themes discussed by the keynote speakers and illustrating the main theme of the Congress.
- **20 IAC Member Spotlight presentations** highlighting IAC members’ current research, emerging practices and new directions across the field, from technological innovation to experimental processes and socially engaged work.

An **exceptional exhibition line-up** complementing the academic programme:

- **5 major exhibitions** of IAC members’ works:
 - **IAC International Members’ Exhibition “Inheritance and Innovation”**, presenting around 100 artworks developed around the main theme of the conference,
 - **IAC New Members’ Exhibition “Future Vision”** introducing around 120 original ceramic works by new members of the IAC elected in 2025,
 - **IAC China Region Members Exhibition “Porcelain Future - Inheritance and Innovation in Contemporary Chinese Ceramics”** focusing on the multifaceted evolution of Chinese ceramics today.
 - **IAC International Residencies Exhibition** featuring works by 60 artists from pre-Congress residencies at seven leading centers across China,
 - **“Clay for Peace” Exhibition** featuring collaborative projects that foster cultural exchange, creativity, and peace.
- **3 regional/national exhibitions** bringing together perspectives from Latin America, Oceania, as well as Southeast Asia and India.

INHERITANCE AND INNOVATION

- **2 additional thematic exhibitions** drawing on the UNESCO *Memory of the World* collection in parallel with the “*Global Ceramic Heritage Stamp*”, and exploring links between ceramics, architecture and landscape.

The **IAC/UNESCO Evening** which will explore the vital relationship between ceramics, cultural heritage and the humanitarian mission shared by both organisations:

- 4 lectures on the following topics: “*Memories of the World*”, a valuable stamp collection with images related to ceramics and connected to Ceramic communities; “*Tibet ethnic research*”; “*Lumu Golden Brick*”; “*From past to future, with sociological approach and perspectives, Jingpiao movement, Art and Design*”.

The Congress will offer the international ceramics community an extraordinary opportunity to experience the spirit of Jingdezhen with a **diverse cultural programme** including visits of the legendary kilns of the Song and Yuan dynasties and the city's main ceramic landmarks and sites of creation.

A **satellite programme**, the flagship event of which will be the **2026 Jingdezhen International Ceramic Art Biennale**, taking place from 26 June 2026 to 31 March 2027 and entitled “*The Future of Porcelain*”. The Biennale will focus on the innovative development path of traditional ceramic art in the digital era, especially how traditional crafts can integrate with new technologies such as AI.

Participants are invited to extend their stay in China with exclusive **Pre- and Post-Congress tours**. Six curated itineraries will be available, showcasing key ceramic cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Longquan, and Yixing. Programmes feature renowned landmarks alongside visits to leading ceramic masters’ workshops. Each tour offers an immersive experience of the rich cultural and ceramic heritage of every destination.

Registration

Secure your place today by registering via the official Congress website:

<https://jingdezhen2026.aic-iac.org/registration-fees-conditions/>

The Early Bird rate is available until April 30.

Special registration categories (e.g., IAC members, students, etc) are available. Check the Congress website for full pricing details and deadlines. Congress press material, such as the Congress poster and images, is also available on the Congress website.

For further information, please email Danaé Rota at office@aic-iac.org, or call +41 772176216.

About the IAC Congress

The **IAC Congress** is a biennial event convened by the International Academy of Ceramics, NGO in official partnership with UNESCO. It is the premier international forum for dialogue, collaboration, and innovation within the global ceramic community.

About the Host

Jingdezhen City has over 2,000 years of pottery-making history, including more than 1,000 years of royal kiln production, and thus represents the essence of Chinese ceramic heritage.

Jingdezhen Ceramic University—the 2026 Congress host—has deep roots in ceramic education and international cultural exchange. The university is recognised for initiatives such as the Jingdezhen International Ceramic Art Biennale and the “Ceramic Road” International Ceramic Education Alliance.