



SBS AöR Stadtmuseum, Markt 46, 53721 Siegburg

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Administration & Communications Coordinator
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Ihr Zeichen/Ihre Nachricht vom

Mein Zeichen

Datum
15.05.2025

Letter of motivation for admission to the IAC

Dear Mrs Voirol,

the Stadtmuseum Siegburg has been operating at a very high and international level for many years, including in the field of ceramics. As it is a multi-disciplinary museum, its historical and current significance in the field of ceramics is not recognised in the same way as it is in pure ceramics museums. We would therefore like to apply for membership of the AIC association, also in order to improve our networking with the international scene. The Stadtmuseum Siegburg is an outstanding exhibition venue for ceramic artists from abroad and - conveniently located in the heart of Germany with an ICE train connection and close to the airport - a suitable conference venue for experts:

The Stadtmuseum Siegburg, member of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and thus committed to its quality standards for the museum's mission of 'collecting, researching, preserving and presenting', presents in its permanent exhibition an exemplary and representative overview of the key development phases of the town and the region on the right bank of the Rhine, from its geological origins through medieval and early modern urban development to the present day. Exhibitions of contemporary art and numerous events, both on an international level, make the Stadtmuseum Siegburg a lively cultural centre that has no equal in the region.

The largest section of the permanent exhibition is dedicated to the history of Siegburg stoneware, for which the town was famous throughout Europe in the late Middle Ages and early modern period. Thanks to its unique clay deposits of the highest quality, the likes of which could not be found anywhere else in Europe, Siegburg had established itself in the Rhineland as the first production centre for stoneware, which was traded throughout the entire Baltic region via the Hanseatic routes. High-quality mass-produced wares for the people, monasteries and town councils were made here, as well as ornately decorated unique pieces, which were favoured as objects of prestige and representation at princely courts and in aristocratic houses. Old Master paintings depict special pieces of Siegburg stoneware alongside precious vessels made of gold, silver and glass, brocade and oriental carpets, citrus fruits, confectionery and white bread.

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The department was completely redesigned in 2021 with contemporary aesthetics and media technology and updated on the basis of the latest scientific findings.

A comprehensive catalogue has been published to accompany the exhibition.

In the context of the collection and presentation of historical stoneware, scientists regularly come to the museum to carry out detailed research or meet for international ceramics symposia (so in september 2025).

Based on this special heritage, Siegburg has also been focussing on contemporary ceramics for several years; the tourism team (which has had its offices in the Stadtmuseum since 2023) works closely with the Stadtmuseum team. The annual ceramics market, which takes place on the second weekend in July on the market square in front of the town museum, has long since established itself, with high-quality, professional workshops from numerous European countries. On the occasion of the ceramics market, the city museum opens an annual exhibition of selected artistic ceramic works (from Barcelona, London, France, Denmark, etc.). The Siegburg Ceramics Prize, whose competition now attracts internationally renowned ceramists to Siegburg every two years, is also presented for several weeks in the rooms of the Stadtmuseum's temporary exhibition with up to 80 pre-juried pieces.

A catalogue with illustrations and specialist texts is published for each of these exhibitions.

In recent years, the Stadtmuseum Siegburg has been able to gradually build up an international collection of contemporary ceramic art from the exhibitions. In 2024, a separate exhibition area was created in the building for this growing collection, where the works are now on permanent display. This closes the gap to the historical ceramics that have brought the city worldwide fame thanks to their uniqueness and high quality.

The work and current offers of the Stadtmuseum Siegburg can be found at www.stadtmuseum-siegburg.de .

Photos of the permanent exhibition and the temporary exhibitions can be found in the attached flyer 'Faszination Keramik'.

We would be delighted to be accepted into the AIC and look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf/im Auftrag



(Dr. Gundula Caspary)
Museumsleiterin