

Letters of Application - April 28 - 2019

Att. The Council of International Academy of Ceramics

A description of CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art and the professional activities of the organisation

CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art is a thriving contemporary museum; in the Nordic regions the largest museum only dedicated to collection, presentation and research of ceramic art, craft and design – both Danish and international ceramics. The museum aims to present the magic and diversity of ceramics on many levels as well as their historical, technical and artistic merits. According to this, the aim of the museum is to research in and to present ceramics, across the traditional and contemporary, and to make the historical development in ceramics relevant for a mainstream audience.

The history of the museum goes back to 1994 where the idea of a museum specialized in ceramics arose out of the international artists' association CLAY TODAY. The five Danish ceramicists drew much inspiration from their international colleagues and realised that the time was right for Denmark to have its very own museum for contemporary ceramic art, craft and design. The starting point of the museum is in the light of this to build up a comprehensive collection of both Danish and international studio ceramics, which has been the major focus of the museum ever since. Until 2010 where Royal Scandinavia decided to donate its entire museum collection – the renowned collection of Royal Copenhagen – to the museum of ceramics in Middelfart. The collection consists of 55.000 thousand ceramic items, more than 10.000 original drawings, a library of more than 10.000 books and the historical archives of the three Danish Manufactories of ceramics: Bing & Grøndahl, The Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory and Alumina.

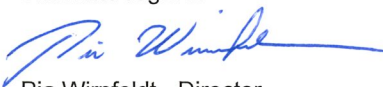
The donation of this huge collection became the starting point for a radical renovation and extension of the museum from 2013 to 2015 supported by five private foundations in Denmark. With the reopening of the museum in the spring of 2015 the museum changed its name to CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art. A name which echoes back to the Museum's own history and to the CLAY TODAY artists, besides reflecting all the activities related to a museum of ceramic art, craft and design.

After the reopening in 2015 the museum has tripled its audience with an amount of more than 40.000 visitors per year. Every year we present a series of special, temporary exhibitions of both historical and contemporary ceramic art, craft and design. Besides that, the museum also houses a comprehensive, permanent collection of both the Royal Copenhagen Collection and the studio ceramic of Denmark. In relation to the temporary exhibitions since 2015, the museum has published a huge amount of ceramic books and catalogues. Please see the attached list of both our exhibition activities and publications. Regarding the permanent as well as the temporary exhibitions, we also develop education materials for kids in all ages. Please visit www.claymuseum.dk for more information.

The organisation of CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art has also developed quite a bit throughout the years. The Museums' committee represent 8 people including our professional chairman of CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art, Mr. Erik Jacobsen. In the staff of more than 20 people, we currently have 6 people with an academic degree in the area of art, working professional with the collection, presentation, education and research of ceramics at the museum. Furthermore, in September we can add a Ph.D. student to our academic staff of the museum, financed by a private foundation in Denmark. The research of this project will focus on the collaboration between the Danish master of stoneware, Axel Salto, and The Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Manufactory.

I hope this short description will justify the attached recommendation of CLAY Museum of Ceramic Art in Denmark as a future member of the International Academy of Ceramics. If the council of IAC have any further questions, you are most welcome to contact me at any time: pia@claymuseum.dk

With kind regards



Pia Wirnfeldt - Director