



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CERAMICS
Musée Ariana
10 Avenue de la Paix
CH 1202 Genève
Switzerland

Faenza, 4-5-2017
Prot. N. 392.11.8

Dear President, Dear Members of the Academy,

As Director of the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza I would like to send a request of application for the MIC Faenza as affiliate member of the International Academy of Ceramics.

Following the IAC mission, that is stimulating friendship and communication between professionals in the field of ceramics in all countries and encouraging, maintaining the highest level of quality production in all ceramic cultures, I think that the MIC can carry on this philosophy with its long lasting and important experience. At the same time, as the Academy "is the only association devoted to the medium of clay that functions on an international level", the MIC will achieve a great impulse from the contacts with high level professional figures and taking part to the several IAC activities.

The MIC was founded with an international attitude and today it offers a complete vision of the ceramic cultures belonging to any age and any place. It houses and promotes a heritage made up of more than 50.000 works, both ancient and contemporary, all of them exhibited in about 15.000 squared meters of suggestive architectures.

We can say that the MIC is a real ceramic cultural pole, it includes a Historical Library, opened to the public, which preserves more than 70.000 ceramics books and reviews; a Restoration Department, Photographic and Documentary Archives; and, since 1913, the magazine "Faenza" has been published. The Educational Department "Playing with Ceramics", a workshop founded by Bruno Munari, plays an important educational role for ceramics and it is linked to the guided tours for children, families, students and people in general. The MIC has been arranging since 1938 the "International Competition of Ceramic Art – Faenza Prize" one of the most prestigious and long lasting biennial Prize in the field of contemporary ceramic art, it highlights the new art trends and languages from all over the world. The international relevance of the MIC, its history deeply linked to a town which joins its name with ceramics itself (Faenza – Faïence), the great exhibitions, the meetings, the events devoted to several forms of art, allowed it to be part of the sites selected by UNESCO as place of peace with the acknowledgement "MIC expression of ceramic art in the world".



Concerning the international relations, starting from 1908 the MIC has developed a great number of important contacts with the main international cultural institutions, that thanks to the great exhibitions, the loan of ceramic works, the participation in European project and in cultural projects devoted to the ceramic heritage (some European examples are the Porzellanikon in Selb, the Victorian and Albert Museum in London, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, the Petit Palais in Paris, the Musée National de Porcelain Adrien Dubouché in Limoges, the Ceramic Pottery Museum in Stoke on Trent, the Museo Nacional De Ceramica Gonzalez Marti in Valencia and the museums of applied arts and design in Helsinki, Herend, Zagreb, Belgrade, Lisbon, and many others all over the world). In 2016 an outstanding project involving five museums of ceramics in China, managed by the MIC Faenza, started. The travelling exhibition "1000 years of Italian Ceramics – from the 10th to the 20th century" (9th December 2016 to 25th March 2018), curated by the MIC will be housed in the following venues: Henan Museum, Zhejiang Provincial museum, Liaoning Provincial museum, Shanxi Museum, Shenzhen Museum. 150 works of art testifying the history of Italian majolica from the Middle Age to nowadays from the MIC collection will promote the Italian ceramic history. Beside that, another international project, still ongoing, is represented by "Ceramics and its dimensions", an European program part of Creative Europe, carried on by 15 European cultural institution working on ceramics at different levels: cultural, artistic, communication, technical and productive, in particular for the design. The program gave rise to the travelling exhibition "European cultural lifestyle in ceramics. From baroque until today" (2015 – 2017) that intends to explore the past usage of ceramics in order to better know our present situation, starting from the everyday ceramic production to reach the great possibilities of ceramics in any field, included the world of art and design. Seven are the venues: The Museum of Applied Arts in Belgrade, the Porzellanikon in Selb, the "Potteries Museum & Art Gallery" in Stoke on Trent, the Museum of Applied Arts and Design in Tallin, the National Museum of Ceramic "González Martí" in Valencia, the Porcelain Museum in Riga and the MIC Faenza. Moreover the National Museum of Slovenia in Ljubljana and the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague supported the exhibition with their important loans of ceramics.

These examples are only the most recent cases of international engagements.

I wish the members of the Academy will accept the request of involvement of the MIC Faenza, so our experiences, shared with the members of the Association, can enrich both our Institution and the community.

My best regards,

Claudia Casali

Director

International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza