"Ceramics: Heritage and Innovation in the Capital of Porcelain"

52nd Congress of the International Academy of Ceramics, Jingdezhen, China

Post-Congress Press Release

Geneva, 23 October 2026 – The International Academy of Ceramics (IAC), in partnership with Jingdezhen Ceramic University and the Jingdezhen Municipal Government, is pleased to share a retrospective of the 52nd IAC Congress, held from 27 June to 2 July 2026 in the historic city of Jingdezhen, China.

Exploration of Heritage and Innovation

With over 2,000 years of pottery-making history and more than 1,000 years of royal kiln production, Jingdezhen welcomed the international ceramics community for six days under the theme "Heritage and Innovation." The Congress combined a carefully crafted academic programme with a large-scale exhibition platform.

The academic programme covered four sub-themes spanning historical to future perspectives, cross-cultural dialogue and sustainability. It included 4 keynote lectures delivered by Wayne Higby, Bai Ming, Zhang Jie and Robert Hassan, 19 academic lectures, and 20 IAC Member Spotlight presentations highlighting members' current research and practices.

The programme also featured the IAC/UNESCO Evening, cultural visits to major local museums and the legendary kilns of the Song and Yuan dynasties, as well as a satellite programme headlined by the 2026 Jingdezhen International Ceramic Art Biennale.

A landmark exhibition platform

The 52nd IAC Congress featured an unprecedented exhibition programme, bringing together a record 10 exhibitions.

At its heart were 6 major exhibitions showcasing the work of 248 IAC members from around the world:

- The IAC International Members' Exhibition, "*Inheritance and Innovation*," presenting 78 artworks selected by a professional jury in response to the exhibition theme
- The IAC New Members' Exhibition, "*Future Vision*," presenting 117 artworks by newly elected IAC members

- The IAC International Residencies' Exhibition, featuring works by 49 IAC members who participated in pre-Congress residencies at 7 residency centres across China
- The National Exhibition, "*Porcelain Future – Inheritance and Innovation in Contemporary Chinese Ceramics*" presenting 124 artworks
- "*Clay for Peace*," presenting 18 collaborative artworks by IAC members, either produced together or with local Chinese artists
- The IAC Members' Fundraising Exhibition "*Chinese Zodiac*", featuring 72 artworks by IAC members which were raffled off to raise funds for IAC projects

The satellite programme of exhibitions included:

- 3 regional exhibitions representing Latin America, Oceania, and Southeast Asia and India
- 2 thematic exhibitions exploring the Global Ceramic Heritage Stamp project, and the relationship between ceramics, architecture and landscape

Together, these exhibitions offered visitors a rare, comprehensive view of contemporary ceramic art from China and around the globe.

3 IAC Awards were presented to selected artists with works in the IAC International Members' Exhibition. Through three distinct perspectives, these Awards celebrate ceramic practices that engage with heritage, cultural exchange and emerging artistic voices:

- Heritage Excellence Award – Tradition Reloaded — Keka Ruiz-Tagle, Chile
- Award for Cultural Exchange – Global Vibes — Xavier Monsalvatje, Spain
- Emerging Voice Award – Fresh Drop — Janina Myronowa, Poland

The jury for the IAC Awards was comprised of IAC Council Members Monika Gass, Hana Novotná and Misun Rheem.

A Record International Turn-out

The Congress was marked by exceptional international participation:

- 532 participants registered for the Congress (excluding Day Pass holders who registered directly at the front desk)
- 296 participants were IAC members, coming from 62 different countries (see list below)
- 69 countries were represented at the Congress overall

This turnout reflects both the continued growth and global reach of the IAC community, and the strong appeal of Jingdezhen as a host city for this milestone gathering.

The Congress was also an opportunity to celebrate the Academy's newest members. Close to 140 new members were present in Jingdezhen to receive their diploma and to take a

commemorative photo with Oriol Calvo Vergés, IAC President, marking their official welcome into the Academy.

The Congress was also the occasion to honour individuals whose contributions to the ceramics field and to the Academy were recognised with the following distinctions:

- Members of Honour: Hsu I-Chi, Zheng Zhi and Mehmet Tüzüm Kızılcan
- Emeritus Member: Lyu Pinchang
- Patron: Liu Zili
- Friends of the Jingdezhen Congress: Luke Li Chao and Goh Zhenxi

Final words

The IAC extends its deepest gratitude to Jingdezhen Ceramic University and the Jingdezhen Municipal Government for their generous hospitality and outstanding organisation, as well as to the many volunteers, staff and partners whose dedication made the 52nd IAC Congress possible.

Following the success of the Jingdezhen Congress, the International Academy of Ceramics looks forward to welcoming its members and the global ceramics community to the next IAC Congress in Kolkata in 2028!

"*In a world that is often divided, ceramics reminds us that cultures do not grow in isolation. They grow through contact, curiosity, respect and dialogue*." - Oriol Calvo Vergés, IAC President

For further information, please visit the dedicated Press page on the Congress website or contact Danaé Rota at office@aic-iac.org.