

## BY THE NUMBERS

Sources: INSEE - MC - MESRI

- €38,5 million in public funding for the national postsecondary schools of art (2018)
- 50 Centres d'Art (art centers) in France (2018)
- Over 1200 museums including 38 national museums (2019)
- 45 public postsecondary schools of art operating on 55 sites (2019)
- 11,000 international students enrolled in art and cultural colleges (2019)

## INTERNATIONAL

France is renowned for its art and culture, thanks in part to its network of 38 national museums; its protected artistic heritage; its festivals, exhibitions, and live performances; and for contemporary work in design and the visual and graphic arts, including comic (cartoon) art. Marcel Duchamp, Yves Klein, Robert Combas, Sophie Calle and Julien Prévieux (Marcel Duchamp prize 2014) are just a few of the nation's internationally recognized artists. Camille Henrot was awarded the Silver Lion at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013, while Laure Prouvost won the Turner Prize in London.

The nation's collection of contemporary art consists of more than 96,000 works, about half of which were produced by French artists. France's special place in the world of art is exemplified by public institutions like the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC, national contemporary art fund) and its regional affiliates (known as (FRACs). The Foire Internationale d'Art Contemporain (FIAC, international contemporary art fair) has been held in Paris for more than 40 years and now takes place in Los Angeles and St. Petersburg as well. Nearly all of France's art schools are members of the Erasmus+ network, enabling students to obtain full credit for semesters spent studying abroad at cooperating institutions.

## RELATED FIELDS

• Arts • Culture • Design • Education • Fashion • Management

## SUBFIELDS

• Architectural decoration • Art markets • Audiovisual arts • Ceramics • Crafts  
 • Cultural education and communication • Design • Digital arts • Drawing  
 • Fashion and textiles • Film • Graphic arts/design • Engraving • Historic preservation • History of art • Illustration • Interior architecture • Multimedia  
 • Museum studies • Painting • Photography • Restoration and conservation  
 • Set design • Sculpture • Video • Workshops

## USEFUL LINKS

- ♦ ANdÉA, the national association of postsecondary schools of art: [www.andea.fr](http://www.andea.fr)
- ♦ APPEA, the national association of public preparatory programs for admission to schools of art: [www.appea.fr](http://www.appea.fr)
- ♦ BSAD, Specialized Art & Design Foundation: [www.bsad.eu](http://www.bsad.eu)
- ♦ CampusArt, online application site for art schools: [www.campusart.org](http://www.campusart.org)
- ♦ CNAP, National center for the plastic arts: [www.cnap.fr](http://www.cnap.fr)
- ♦ CNEEA, National coordination of art school teachers: [www.blog.cneea.fr](http://www.blog.cneea.fr)
- ♦ Culturethèque - Institut Français: [www.culturetheque.com](http://www.culturetheque.com)
- ♦ Degrees and diplomas in art and culture, information sheet: [www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-art-and-culture](http://www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-art-and-culture)
- ♦ Media library of theÉcole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris (80,000 notices on contemporary art): [www.ensba.fr/exl-php/cadcgp.php](http://www.ensba.fr/exl-php/cadcgp.php)
- ♦ Ministry of culture: [www.culture.gouv.fr](http://www.culture.gouv.fr)
- ♦ RNCP, national registry of occupational certifications: [www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr](http://www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr)

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## VISUAL ARTS

The visual arts involve artistic activities such as drawing, painting, photography, engraving, and even sculpture, sound creation, video and decoration. They deploy skill and technique to express an idea using shape and form.

In France a clear distinction is made between the fine arts (including the visual arts) and applied arts.

The diversity and uniqueness of the nation's schools of art express the richness of its artistic history. More than a thousand art schools operate across France, from the public Écoles supérieures to private institutions and university departments. All take as their purpose to train artists and creative professionals, as well as qualified practitioners of occupations related to art and creativity. Programs cultivate a critical spirit and the capacity to respond creatively to one's context, enabling artists to produce work occupying a distinctive place in contemporary creation.

The visual artist lives on the sale of his works, his performances and his copyrights. He must make himself known to the gallery owners, who will represent him in France and abroad.

CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM  
[WWW.CAMPUSART.ORG](http://WWW.CAMPUSART.ORG)

- > FIND YOUR PROGRAM
- > SEE ALL PROGRAMS

# VISUAL ARTS

## LICENCE

### LEVEL

Students apply to the first year of art school through a competitive process in which applicants submit a portfolio of their artistic work.

Admissions in mid-curriculum are possible if the applicant can establish equivalent personal and professional experience. Many applicants enroll in programs to prepare them for the admission competition. Some schools offer an in-house preparatory program that combines instruction in French with preparation for the competition.

The 3-year undergraduate phase in a public school of art begins with a common core year followed by two years in a more specialized track leading to a national diploma. Upon the completion of the curriculum, students may begin to practice professionally or choose to pursue further study.

Some private schools award credentials that are listed on the national registry of occupational certifications (RNCP). Tuition charges at many private programs are high.

### DIPLÔME NATIONAL D'ART (DNA) (BACCALAURÉAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L3

> **DNA**, awarded in one of 3 options after 3 years of art study in a public school (180 ECTS credits), confers the degree of Licence. About 50 schools offer the **Art** option (and 10 of those allow a concentration, for example, in cartoon art, conservation and preservation, or other specialty area). Ten schools offer the **Communication** option (some with concentrations in specialties such as visual didactics, drafting, and so on). Some 20 schools offer the **Design** option (sometimes with a specialization or concentration in set design, textiles, or another area).

To apply online: [www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog)> DNA

### LICENCE (BACCALAURÉAT + 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – L3

> **Licence (Arts, Letters, Languages)**, a 3-year national diploma (180 ECTS credits) offered in 20 universities with majors in arts or plastic arts. A **Licence (Humanities and Social Sciences)** with a major in arts is offered at Université de Tours. Students who earn a Licence may apply to a Master's program.

To apply online: [www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog)> Licence

## MASTER

### LEVEL

### DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE (DU) (BACCALAURÉAT + 4 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M1

> **DU "Presenting Contemporary Art"**, created by Université du Havre and the École Supérieure d'Art et Design Le Havre Rouen (ESADHaR), is designed for 4th and 5th year students contemplating careers in helping the public appreciate contemporary art. [www.esadhar.fr](http://www.esadhar.fr)

### DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D'EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP) (BACCALAURÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2

> **DNSEP**, a 2-year degree (120 ECTS credits) that is equivalent to a national Master caps the graduate phase of art education that aims to impart structure and strength to the art student's personal research. 45 schools offer the **Art** option (with about 20 of these mentioning a concentration in areas such as sound art, real-time art, and so on). Ten schools offer the **Communication** option (with 7 permitting a concentration, for example, in publishing or mixed media). More than 20 schools offer the **Design** option, often with a specialty (such as design and space or food design). After earning a DNSEP students may pursue a doctorate or enroll in a specialized post-Master course..

To apply online: [www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog)> DNSEP

### MASTER 2 (BACCALAURÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2

> **Master**, a 2-year national diploma (120 ECTS credits) offered in about 20 universities under the broad fields of **Arts, Letters, and Languages** or **Sciences Humanities and Social Sciences** with various art-related concentrations - among them contemporary art, arts and culture, visual arts, creation and research in contemporary arts, and design,....

To apply online: [www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog)> Master

### INSTITUTIONS DEGREES / MASTER GRADE (BACCALAURÉAT + 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION) – M2

> **Créateur industriel (industrial designer)** from the École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle (ENSCI) - Les Ateliers de Paris.

> **Concepteur-créateur en arts décoratifs (designer/decorator)** from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD) in Paris. [www.ensad.fr](http://www.ensad.fr)

> **Diplôme National Supérieur d'Arts Plastiques (DNSAP)** from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts (ENSBA) in Paris.

> **Diplôme de l'École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP)** in École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP) d'Arles.

To apply online: [www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog)

## BEYOND THE MASTER LEVEL

### INSTITUTION-SPECIFIC MASTER'S (M2 + 1, 2 OR 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION)

Post-Master programs are often organized in collaboration with art schools and universities abroad. Applicants of all nationalities are welcome.

> About **20 public postsecondary schools of art** offer post-Master programs of 1–3 years for students wishing to continue their research and carry out a project in contemporary art, design, or drawing.

> **Le Fresnoy (the national studio of contemporary arts in Tourcoing)** offers a 2-year post-Master credential. Students complete a project and receive a Master + 2 diploma recognized by the French Ministry of Culture. [www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/453](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/453)

> **Diplôme Supérieur de Recherche en Art (DSRA)**, granted after 3 years by the École Supérieure d'Art d'Avignon (ESAA), the École Supérieure d'Art de l'Agglomération d'Annecy (ESAAA) and the École Européenne Supérieure de l'Image (EESI). The ESA Avignon's DSRA has three available concentrations: • Preservation and archaeology of media and digital arts • Conservation-Restoration • Creation.

> **CE2A, Certificat d'Ecole en Enseignement de l'Art** of the ESA du Nord-Pas de Calais - Dunkerque/Tourcoing

[www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/390](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/390) and

[www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/391](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/391)

> **Diplôme de 3e cycle** of the Villa Arson - ESA

[www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/567](http://www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/567)