

Association De Mains De Maîtres, Luxembourg

AN ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO FINE CONTEMPORARY CRAFT
OF LUXEMBOURG

1) The Purpose, Mission and Vocation of the Association

The **purpose** of the association De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg is to continue and develop the action, initiated in 2016 by Their Royal Highnesses The Hereditary Grand-Duchess Stephanie and the Hereditary Grand Duc Guillaume, and organize a large exhibition in the heart of Luxembourg that identifies and brings together the artisans and art creators exercising in the Grand Duchy and in its Greater Region.

Amongst the **missions** of the association, the first is to perpetuate the exhibition "De Mains De Maîtres" whose reputation extends beyond the borders and to become a real Biennial of fine contemporary craft that build bridges between the main actors of the European countries.

The **vocation** of the association De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg is also to export the crafts and craftsmanship of Luxembourg. Completing and reinforcing this biannual event in the heart of the Grand-Duchy, the association is developing a program of exhibitions across borders, offering to exhibit each year a selection of in Luxembourg established craftsmen in different European capitals, according to the great meetings specific to each country, or at the heart of embassies or other prestigious places.

Willing to privilege the transmission essential to the preservation of creating know-how, the association has created scholarships for excellence that allow future artisans or craftsmen already confirmed to improve their expertise abroad. The scholarship, handed out at regular intervals, are partly financed by the proceeds of the exhibitions, in which all the works presented can be acquired.

In a word, the association De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg wants to be a real engine for the preservation and development of the crafts of Luxembourg, both in the heart of the Grand Duchy, and beyond the borders, through Europe and later on worldwide.

2) The Gouvernance

The association "De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" is a non-profit organization established in May 2017. It was created following the success of the inaugural biennial in 2016, with the aim of perpetuating the commitment to creators and craftsmen. The governance structure includes a board of directors, which oversees the strategic and operational aspects of the association :

1. Her Royal Highness the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg is one of the key initiators of the biennial, playing a vital role in its planning and promotion, and she holds the position of honorary president of the Association.
2. Mr. Roland Kuhn serves as the chairman of the "De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" association. His leadership and commitment have been critical in steering the organization and ensuring the success of its efforts to promote and preserve Luxembourg's artisanal heritage.
3. Mrs. Françoise Thoma, CEO of Spuerkeess (Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État), is the treasurer. This state savings bank is providing financial backing and resources for the biennial.
4. Mr. Tom Wirion, CEO of the Chamber of Skilled Trades and Crafts Luxembourg (Chambre des Métiers) acts as the general secretary to the Association. The Chamber of Crafts in Luxembourg is an essential partner, supporting the event and its mission to emphasize the significance of craftsmanship.

These members, along with other dedicated individuals, organizations and ministries¹ work together to ensure the success and continuity of the “De Mains De Maîtres” biennial, fostering a vibrant community of artisans and promoting their exceptional skills both locally and internationally.



Jean-Marc Dimanche is the General Curator of the Association De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg. In this role, he is responsible for curating and overseeing the exhibitions, including selecting themes and guiding the artistic direction of the events. For instance, he chose the theme "The Gesture and the Territory" for the fourth edition of the biennial.

www.demainsdemaitres.lu

3) Biennial

At the initiative of TRH, the Hereditary Grand Duke and the Hereditary Grand Duchess, a major exhibition dedicated to artisans and art creators was organized for the first time in Luxembourg in December 2016. The aim of the exhibition was to highlight the talent pool of the country in terms of creativity, as well as to shed light on the beauty and importance of the transfer of know-how to younger generations. Following the unprecedented success of the first edition of the exhibition, « De Mains De Maîtres » has become a real Biennial dedicated to the fine contemporary craft, the second edition, in December 2018 has been organized in collaboration with the Chambre des Métiers and the State Bank BCEE and supported by the Ministries of Culture and Economy, the Leir Foundation, the City of Luxembourg and some private partners.

The association De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg shares values of excellence and dialogues with the art and contemporary creation far into the future. The association serves as a leading platform for artisans and artists and explores the cultural wealth and diversity in Luxembourg.

¹ Since 2020 the association is an approved association by the Luxembourgish ministry of Culture

2016

The first “De Mains De Maîtres” biennial, titled “L’Art des métiers et les métiers d’Art au Luxembourg, cœur de l’Europe” was a landmark event, held from December 2-4, 2016. It was initiated by Their Royal Highnesses the Hereditary Grand Duke and the Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg. The event aimed to celebrate and promote the exceptional craftsmanship of Luxembourg’s artisans. It featured a diverse range of works, from traditional crafts to contemporary creations, highlighting the importance of preserving artisanal skills and passing them on to future generations. The biennial also included workshops, demonstrations, and discussions, fostering a deeper appreciation for the art of craftsmanship.

Participants: Over 60 artisans and creators from Luxembourg

Visitors : approximately 10,000

2018

The second edition, titled “Gestes et Merveilles”, held from November 29 to December 2, 2018, built on the success of the inaugural event. This biennial continued to showcase the intersection of art and craftsmanship, with a focus on innovation and the evolving nature of artisanal practices. It featured a broader array of works from both local and international artisans, emphasizing the dynamic and innovative aspects of craftsmanship. The event also included interactive sessions and exhibitions that allowed visitors to engage directly with the artisans and their creative processes.

Winner of the Leir Foundation Prize 2018 was Mr. Claude Schmitz (Bijoutier joaillier)

Participants : Featured around 70 artisans

Visitors: approximately 12.000

Exhibits : Showcased over 300 works of art

2021

The third biennial, originally scheduled for 2020 but postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, took place from November 25-28, 2021. Titled “Vivre la matière!” (Live the Material!), this edition emphasized the vitality and modernity of craftsmanship. It showcased how traditional techniques could be adapted and revitalized in contemporary contexts. The event was a significant success, attracting a large number of visitors and participants. It featured a variety of exhibitions, workshops, and live demonstrations, highlighting the resilience and adaptability of artisans in the face of challenges.

Winner of the Leir Foundation Prize 2021 was Mr. Didac Zerrouk (Luthier- builds or repairs string instruments)

Participants : Included more than 100 artisans and creators

Visitors : approximately 14,000

2023

The fourth biennial, held from November 23-26, 2023, was themed “The Gesture and the Territory.” This edition explored the relationship between artisanal gestures and their geographical and cultural contexts. It featured 77 artists from Luxembourg and honoured Portugal as the guest country, showcasing the rich cultural exchange between the two nations.

The event included a wide range of activities, such as exhibitions, live demonstrations, and interactive workshops, allowing visitors to experience the intricate processes behind the creation of artisanal works. The biennial also highlighted the importance of cultural heritage and the role of artisans in preserving and promoting it.

Winner of the Leir Foundation Prize was Mrs Joey (Joëlle) Adam (theatrical costume designer)

Participants : Featured over 120 artisans.

Visitors: approximately : 12.000

Special Guests : Included artists from Portugal as the guest of honour.

2024/2025

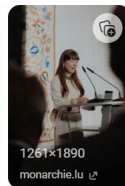
De Mains de Maitres Luxembourg co-produces at the end of the year an exhibition with the Be Craft of Mons (Belgium) that will bring together a selection of Luxembourg craftsmen in dialogue with Belgian creators

In 2025 will take place the 5th edition of the Biennial in Luxembourg with the Czech Republic as the guest of honor, and a selection of our artists will expose at the “Salon Révélations” in Paris.

Some impressions of the Biennials



Les artisans luxembourgeois à la Biennale Révélations au Grand Palais ...



4e Biennale "De Mains De Maître..."



3e biennale « De Mains De Maitres » | Cour grand-ducale



BeCraft – [Expo] Biennale De Mains De Maitres



« De Mains de Maitres » : plongée dans le monde des merveilles - Wunnen ...



Exposition "De main de maître" - Luxembourg ville - Sylvia Martinez ...



Association De Mains De Maitres



Stéphanie de Luxembourg remet le prix de l'exposition « De mains de ...



De mains de maitres : 77 artistes sélectionnés

4) International exhibitions

"De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" has actively participated in several international exhibitions to promote Luxembourgish craftsmanship and foster cultural exchange.

Here are a few notable contributions:

Belgium

In 2017 "De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" exhibited in Brussels a selection of Luxembourg artists and artisans presented at two sites, the Embassy of Luxembourg and the Lin Deletaille Gallery.

Homo Faber

In 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024, "De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" participated in the prestigious Homo Faber event in Venice, Italy. This exhibition, organized by the Michelangelo Foundation, celebrates the best of European craftsmanship. Four Luxembourg artists were selected to present their creations, showcasing the high level of skill and creativity in Luxembourg.

Révélations

"De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" has also been a regular participant in the Révélations biennial in Paris, France (2017, 2019, 2022). This event is a major international platform for contemporary fine crafts. Luxembourgish artisans have had the opportunity to display their works alongside other international creators, highlighting the innovative and high-quality craftsmanship from Luxembourg. "De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg" was honored as the "pays d'honneur" (guest country) at the Révélations biennial in Paris in 2019. This prestigious recognition highlighted the exceptional craftsmanship and creativity of Luxembourgish artisans on an international stage.

Autumn Impressions

In 2021, a group of Luxembourg craftsmen and creators took part in the "Autumn Impressions" exhibition in Paris. This event was part of the broader "De Mains De Maîtres" initiative to promote Luxembourgish craftsmanship abroad. The exhibition featured a variety of works, allowing visitors to experience the rich artisanal heritage of Luxembourg.

These international exhibitions not only provide a platform for Luxembourgish artisans to showcase their work but also help to build bridges with other countries, fostering cultural exchange and collaboration.

5) Scholarships

The Association De Mains De Maîtres Luxembourg offers scholarships aimed at supporting talented designers and artisans living in Luxembourg. Here are some key details about the scholarship:

Purpose : The scholarships are intended to help artisans and designers enhance their skills or pursue complementary or cross-disciplinary training. This can include attending fine arts schools, training centers, workshops, or residences, either in Luxembourg or abroad.

Selection : Recipients are chosen based on their applications by a jury composed of experts from the world of arts and crafts¹.

Grant Amount : the dedicated amount decided by the board

Frequency : Scholarships are awarded on a regular basis

Notable Recipients: Past recipients include Sarah Meyers, who used her grant to attend a ceramics and colour workshop in Jingdezhen, China (2017). Ellen van der Woude who attended a ceramic residence at the Maison des Métiers d'Art (MMAQ), Québec (2019). Claude Jeitz who participated in a glass blowing work shop in Germany (2022).

These scholarships reflect the association's commitment to fostering and preserving artisanal know-how in Luxembourg.

For more information:: www.demainsdemaitres.lu