

Visual arts

The visual arts involve artistic activities such as drawing, painting, photography, engraving, and even sculpture 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 arts in figures

- €38,5 million in public funding for the national postsecondary schools of art (2014)
- Culture's contribution to the French economy (2013) :
 - €105 billion role in the economy
 - €44 billion in value added (2.3% of GDP)
 - 670,000 culture-related jobs
- 23 regional funds for contemporary art (FRACs): 26,000 works acquired from 4,200 artists (since 1982)
- 50 Centres d'Art (art centers) in France (2014)
- 45 public postsecondary schools of art operating on 58 sites (2015)
- 11,000 international students enrolled in those schools (2014)

Source : MCC - MEF - MENESR

INTERNATIONAL

France is renowned for its art and culture, thanks in part to its network of 37 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
- APPEA, the national association of public preparatory programs for admission to schools of art: www.appea.fr
- Blog of the national association of art school faculty: www.blog.cneea.fr
- CNAP, national center for the plastic arts: www.cnap.fr
- Culturethèque – Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
- Degrees and diplomas in art and culture, information sheet: www.campusfrance.org/fr/ressource/les-diplomes-dart-et-de-culture
- Ministry of Culture and Communication: www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr
- RNCP, the national registry of occupational certifications: www.rncp.cncp.gouv.fr

CHOOSE YOUR PROGRAM

- CampusArt program catalogue and online application form: www.campusart.org
- Campus France program catalogue: www.campusfrance.org> Trouvez votre formation
- Catalogue of short academic programs, cultural visits, and language courses: www.coursdete.campusfrance.org
- Catalogue of programs taught in English: www.campusfrance.org> Trouvez votre formation
- CampusBourses, financing your study in France: www.campusfrance.org> Financez vos études

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) (Secondary diploma + 3 years of postsecondary study) – L3

- **DNA**, awarded in one of 3 options after 3 years of art study in a public school (180 ECTS credits). 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).

Licence (Secondary diploma + 3 years of postsecondary study) – 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.

Master level

Diplôme Universitaire (DU) (Secondary diploma + 4 years of postsecondary study) – 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

Diplôme National Supérieur d'Expression Plastique (DNSEP) (Secondary diploma + 5 years of postsecondary study) – 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. More than 50 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.

• *Degrees and diplomas in art and culture:* www.campusfrance.org
> Espace documentaire > Offre de formation > Fiches diplômes

Master 2 (Secondary diploma + 5 years of postsecondary study) – 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.

Institutions degrees / Master grade (Secondary diploma + 5 years of postsecondary study) – M2

- **créateur industriel** (industrial designer) from the École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle (ENSCI) - Les Ateliers de Paris. www.ensci.com
- **concepteur-créateur en arts décoratifs** (designer/decorator) from the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD) in Paris. www.ensad.fr
- **Diplôme National Supérieur d'Arts Plastiques (DNSAP)** from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-arts (ENSBA) in Paris. www.beauxartsparis.com
- **Enseignement Supérieur Média et Art (DESMA)**, option **Art**, concentration **Sound, Image, Body** from the École Média Art | Fructidor in Chalon-sur-Saône. www.emafrectidor.com
- **Diplôme de l'École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP)** in Arles. www.enp-arles.com

Beyond the master level

Institutions degrees (M2 + 1, 2 or 3 years of postsecondary study) – Post-M

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.
www.andea.fr/fr/post-diplomes/070613-post-diplomes
- 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 and Communication. www.lefresnoy.net
- **Diplôme Supérieur de Recherche en Art (DSRA)**, granted after 3 years by the École Supérieure d'Art d'Avignon (ESAA) and the École Supérieure d'Art de l'Agglomération d'Annecy (ESAAA). The ESA Avignon's DSRA has three available concentrations:
 - **Preservation and archaeology of media and digital arts**
 - **Conservation-Restoration**
 - **Creation**www.esaavignon.fr