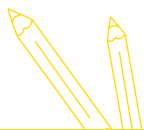


Visual Arts



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. Teaching art at university is not the same as teaching at art school. At university, it is mainly theoretical.

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.

• **€45.3 billion:** Direct economic impact of the cultural sector (2021)

• **23** FRAC (Regional Contemporary Art Fund), 35,000 works

• **51** Centres d'Art (art centers) in France (2023)

• **Over 1 200** museums including 61 national museums (2022)

• **45** public postsecondary schools

of art operating on 55 sites (2023)

• **11,000** international students enrolled in art and cultural colleges (2020)

Sources : INSEE - MC - MESR

International

France is renowned for its art and culture, thanks in part to its network of 61 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 are just a few of the nation's internationally recognized artists. Camille Henrot was awarded the Silver Lion at the 55th Venice Biennale, 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
- BSAD, Specialized Art & Design Foundation: www.bsad.eu
- CampusArt, online application site for art schools: www.campusart.org
- CNAP, National center for the plastic arts: www.cnap.fr
- CNEEA, National coordination of art school teachers: <https://cneea.fr>
- Culturethèque - Institut Français: www.culturetheque.com
- DCA, French association for the development of contemporary art centers: www.dca-art.com
- Degrees and diplomas in art and culture, information sheet: www.campusfrance.org/en/resource/degrees-in-art-and-culture
- Media library of the École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Paris (80,000 notices on contemporary art): <https://alexandrine.beauxartsparis.fr>
- Ministry of culture: www.culture.gouv.fr
- RNCP, national registry of occupational certifications: www.francecompetences.fr

LEVEL Licence

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)

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

> **DNA**, awarded in one of 3 options after 3 years of art study in a public school, 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).

> **CE2A, Certificat d'École en Enseignement de l'Art - Certificat de Formation de Plasticien Intervenant (CFPI)** of the École Supérieure d'art | Dunkerque-Tourcoing

www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/390 and
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/391

To apply online:

www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog > DNA

LICENCE

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 3 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – L3
180 ECTS credits

> **Licence (Arts, Letters, Languages)**, a 3-year national diploma 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 > LICENCE

LEVEL Master

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA (DIPLÔME UNIVERSITAIRE - DU)

4 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

> **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.

DIPLÔME NATIONAL SUPÉRIEUR D'EXPRESSION PLASTIQUE (DNSEP)

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

> **DNSEP**, a 2-year degree 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).

To apply online: www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/catalog > DNSEP

MASTER

NATIONAL DIPLOMA – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

> **Master**, a 2-year national diploma 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 > MASTER

DIPLOMA CRÉATEUR INDUSTRIEL (INDUSTRIAL DESIGNER)

MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

From École Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle (ENSCI) - Les Ateliers de Paris.

DIPLOMA DESIGNER-CREATOR IN THE DECORATIVE ARTS

MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

From École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD) de Paris.

www.ensad.fr

DIPLOMA FROM ENSP IN ARLES

MASTER LEVEL – 5 YEARS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – M2
120 ECTS credits

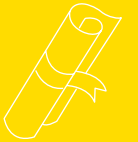
From École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie (ENSP) in Arles:

www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/1147

Visual Arts

LEVEL

Beyond the Master level



INSTITUTION DIPLOMA

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

> **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.

> **Diplôme de 3^e cycle** of the Villa Arson - ESA
www.campusart.org/artsearch/#/program/567

To apply online:

www.campusart.org > Find your program