



EMA-CNIFOP

PRESS RELEASE
May 2021

EMA-CNIFOP IS COMMITTED TO ECOLOGY

In 2021, EMA-CNIFOP is even more radically committed to an ecological approach. Water saving and clay recycling have already been in practice in the workshops for several years, but today, EMA-CNIFOP has expressed the wish to go further and position itself as a leading player in the region in terms of professional eco-practice.

EMA-CNIFOP advocates eco-tourism based on past and present ceramic activity. The establishment considers that it has a duty to bear witness to a human and heritage history and wants to support the eco-responsible approach of the increasing number of ceramists who are making this choice.

This year, the EMA-CNIFOP is adding two innovative proposals to its catalogue of short courses: building an ecological wood-fired kiln and making pottery pieces from materials collected from nature.

The trainees will also benefit from a qualitative and enlightening awareness of the existence of the pottery heritage in Puisaye (through its sites and museums), the reading of archaeological traces, the identification of materials, the methodological and historical analysis of the works of the revolutionary ceramist Jean Carriès in the 19th century.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GENERATION WOOD KILN (JG18/3E)

From **31 May to 7 June 2021**, the eminent ceramist and master of art, Jean Girel will be at the EMA-CNIFOP. He will freely share his knowledge and will train 15 professional ceramists in the construction and use of a latest-generation wood-fired kiln.

The 18th kiln designed by Jean Girel meets three fundamental contemporary requirements (the "3E"):

- Economical: 160 kg of dry wood is sufficient for firing at 1320°.
- Ecological: rejection of clean fumes into the atmosphere (due to the low wood consumption and the post-combustion system implemented).
- Ergonomic: only one person can conduct the firing, without having to bend down or move around to feed the fire or make adjustments.

The kiln thus built will provide EMA-CNIFOP with an ecologically efficient tool that respects the principle of wood firing that made Poyaudine ceramics famous from the 16th to the 20th centuries.

At the end of this training course, EMA-CNIFOP and the 15 trained professional ceramists will continue to spread this virtuous model around them.

PRODUCING CONTEMPORARY ECOLOGICAL CERAMICS, based on collecting land materials and following in the footsteps of Jean Carriès.

From **21 June to 2 July 2021**, Jean Girel and Dominique Lion (a ceramist from Puisaye, a tireless surveyor of its territory and a fine reader of the archaeological traces it contains) will accompany 15 trainees in their collection of earth for the assembly, enamelling and reasoned firing of their future pieces.

Dominique Lion will take the trainees to the collection sites (earth, mineral and vegetable elements) historically prospected by the illustrious late 19th century ceramist Jean Carriès, who stayed at St Amand-en-Puisaye from 1888 to 1894, who rehabilitated stoneware as a material for artistic creation and lastingly modified ceramic art on an international scale.

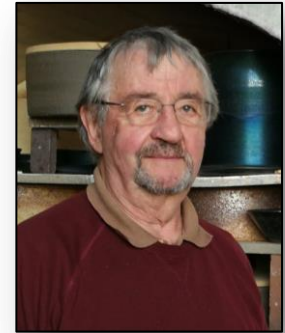
More and more ceramists want to engage in this ethical approach of collecting local materials in order to produce natural ceramics that reflect the territory in which they work. The EMA-CNIFOP has been able to listen to this demand and believes that Puisaye, its history and its natural riches offer a choice location for this research and its pedagogy.

THE SERVICE DES MUSEES ET DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL DE LA NIEVRE / CONSEIL DEPARTEMENTAL DE LA NIEVRE has published a substantial work on the presence of Jean Carriès in Saint-Amand-en-Puisaye. Resulting from several years of research carried out transversally by art historians and ceramists, this book throws a very new light on the installation and the methodology adopted by the famous ceramist. Authors: Jean Girel, Stéphanie Le Follic-Hadida, Dominique Lion, Jean-Michel Roudier and Stéphanie Rabussier-Ringeval.) 200 p. color. To be published in July 2021.

PORTRAIT OF JEAN GIREL

Born in Savoie in 1947, Jean Girel was introduced to pottery at the age of fourteen. His studies at the fine arts school in Mâcon, then a degree in plastic arts in Paris, led him to become first a painter and teacher.

The discovery of Song ceramics revealed to him the evidence of his vocation; he then decided to devote himself exclusively to ceramics from 1975 onwards. Synthesis between Western know-how and the immense tradition of Far Eastern ceramics, his creation involves the elaboration of recipes for pastes and glazes, firing protocols, the invention of tools, instruments and kilns according to his requirements. The wood-fired kiln he uses today in his workshop near Cluny is the 18th he designed and built.



Portrait of Jean GIREL

Jean Girel, *Disque bi*, 2013, porcelaine,
diam. 39,5 cm, copyright Jean Girel.



Consultant in techniques and innovations for various production units in France and abroad, Jean Girel has been writing about ceramics since 1970. His works are very present in many museums around the world. His exceptional know-how and his desire to transmit his passion earned him the title of Master of Art in June 2000, Knight of Arts and Letters in 2007 and Permanent Adviser of the celadon for China in 2018. Jean Girel is listed on the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture.