

The Michelangelo Foundation Summer School Programme welcomes young artisans and designers to France to study tapestry making, 26 August-2 September 2019

Developed in collaboration with local members of the foundation's international network, the Summer School Programme allows young students and graduates to take part in a course aiming to discuss issues at the heart of tapestry making today.

- **The Tapestry and Artistic Interpretation course at the Cité internationale de la tapisserie, in Aubusson, France, focuses on the relationship between creativity and interpretation in tapestry making and the impact of the Lausanne International Tapestry Biennials in the 1960s**
- **The 20 students from 9 different countries take part in talks, tapestry workshops and visits to museums, manufacturers and workshops, immersing themselves in the world of traditional and contemporary tapestry**
- **Students collaborate to create a common work inspired by the masterpiece *Element virtuel spatial* by Swiss artist Elsi Giauque from 1969**
- **The piece created by the young students will be presented at the Cité internationale de la tapisserie**

September 2019, Geneva – The Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship is giving 20 young artisans and designers from around Europe the chance to participate in a course on tapestry making at the world-renowned centre for tapestry making Cité internationale de la tapisserie in Aubusson, France, as part of the foundation's inaugural Summer School Programme.

The Tapestry and Artistic Interpretation course invites students from Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Poland, Latvia, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom to discover the specific tapestry making techniques from Aubusson and to discuss European tapestry methods.

Interpretation in tapestry making is the focus of this course, a notion that was introduced during the Lausanne biennials in the 1960s when contemporary artists became makers, thus disrupting the traditional process of tapestry making involving an artist, a cartoonist and a weaver. Today, this issue is still at the forefront of discussions as the distinction between art and craft is more blurred than ever. Over eight days, participants are immersed in the world of tapestry making by visiting cultural sites, manufacturers and workshops, debating the theory and practice of interpreting an artist's design and working collaboratively toward the creation of a tapestry under the guidance of master tapestry weaver Christian Blanchon. Participants have decided to work on climate change by reinterpreting the four elements, the earth, air, fire and water.

Selected participant Zoe, a graduate from Central Saint Martins and a former Young Ambassador at **Homo Faber: Crafting a more human future**, the signature exhibition of the foundation, explains:

"Getting an insight into Aubusson tapestry would broaden my existing knowledge of textiles. I would like to design for bespoke, luxury projects. The skill of the artisan is vital in this market



therefore this opportunity would be invaluable. I hope to discover a new craft which I can bring into my own practice. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from the best producers of this craft in the world. I would soak up every word they said to me! My key objective would be to develop myself as a collaborator.”

The **Summer School Programme** is a new educational initiative developed with members of the foundation’s international network, offering 50 young students and recent graduates in craftsmanship and design a fully funded place on a participating short course. The aim is to give these young talents the opportunity to try something new, outside their usual specialisation, helping them to broaden their horizons, fulfil their potential and make cross-disciplinary connections that will benefit them as their careers develop.

While participants will discover new skills, their own fresh perspective is vital to the sector. By generating exchanges on a European level, the Summer School Programme aims to encourage future collaborations and further actions to ensure new ways of working in tapestry making.

For more information visit michelangelofoundation.org/en/10-summer-school

Notes for editors

Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship

The Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Craftsmanship is an international, non-profit institution based in Geneva, Switzerland, which celebrates and preserves master craftsmanship and strengthens its connection to the world of design. Rooted in a tradition of culture and excellence and in the realities and challenges of today’s global economy, the foundation seeks to support men and women who dedicate themselves to the pursuit of master craftsmanship, and to foster a new cultural movement built around the values that are essential for their work. The foundation focuses on Europe as a starting point for its activities, in recognition of the vital part craftsmanship has played in the economic and cultural fabric of the region for centuries. michelangelofoundation.org

Cité internationale de la tapisserie, Aubusson

The Cité internationale de la tapisserie opened in summer 2016 in Aubusson, France. The main objective of this new institution is to present the long tradition of carpet and tapestry making specific to Aubusson with a museum and training centre. In the museum, the heritage collections are presented in a brand-new and immersive exhibit. The Cité is a place for artistic creation, training and supporting the tapestry economic sector, which still remains complete and preserved within the territory of Aubusson after six centuries of existence. cite-tapisserie.fr/en

