



**University of
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CLAY MATTERS

THINKING
AND EXHIBITING MATTER
IN RECENT ART

16-18 November 2017
Hasselt (Belgium)

Clay Matters is a symposium and exhibition aimed at discussing the common ground between ceramics and contemporary art, the fruitful relation between the ceramicist and the other visual artists, as well as the role and relevance of clay in contemporary art and culture.

Clay Matters is organised by PXL-MAD, Department of Ceramics/ Fine Arts; research group MANUFACTURE, Faculty of Architecture and Arts (Hasselt University); research group This - The Inside Story. Art, interior design and architecture (Ghent University & VUB, Brussels).

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Clay Matters – Aim of the symposium and exhibition

Ever since ancient times, clay has constantly played an important role in various civilizations and their visual arts. Under the global digital turn since the 1990's, the use of clay and other ceramics has seriously attenuated. Generally speaking, art history and artists have until recently subordinated the hand-made craftsmanship to a conceptual visual imagination. The sensibility that materials mediate has gradually made place to a process of digital representation. However, a renewed interest in matter, craftsmanship and tactile poetics has lately received a growing acclaim. The fast exchange of virtual images has increased to the detriment of the slow creative process that clay demands. The manipulation of ceramics fosters challenging creative skills, like concentration, imagination, spontaneity, detailing and an increased awareness for visual representation. In this context, various contemporary artists, such as Helen Martin, Mark Manders & Thomas Schütte, have returned to the exploitation of clay, porcelain and other ceramics. Clay Matters will discuss the common ground between ceramics and contemporary art, the fruitful relation between ceramicists and other visual artists, as well as the role and relevance of clay in art today. During a two-day international conference and in the space of the wonderful exhibition, we provide a plethora of comprehensive art historical and conceptual answers to the following questions: what makes the contemporary use of clay so appealing and so different from previous periods? How can the fragile and tactile craftsmanship of clay inspire current artistic forms? ~~How can traditional materials and techniques affect the public's sensibility for visual arts?~~

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Clay Matters - Program

Thursday 16/11

19:00 – 21:00 Opening Expo – Clay Matters

Friday 17/11

09:00 – 10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome by Bert Willems

10:15 – 11:15 **Keynote: Herman Parret**

*'A haptological view of the resistance of matter
and materials'*

11:15 – 11:25 Questions & debate

11:25 – 11:35 Interlude

11:35 – 11:55 **Eva Masterman**

*'A new dialogue: the interdisciplinary potential and
application of clay in the wider visual arts'*

11:55 – 12:15 **Shlomit Bauman**

*'Benyamini Center Gallery: research, identity &
material culture'*

12:15 – 12:30 Questions & debate

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 **Keynote: Grace Schwindt**

'Clay and the politics of representation'

15:00 – 15:15 Questions & debate

15:15 – 15:35 **Sebastian Gonzalez de Gortari**

'Molten words'

15:35 – 16:35 **Keynote: Linda Sormin**

'Fierce Passenger: Losing one's way with clay'

16:35 – 16:45 Questions & debate

16:45 – 17:00 Coffee & interlude

17:00 – 18:00 **Vlad Ionescu**

'The pedagogics of ceramics'

Panel discussion with Anton Reijnders, Marieke Pauwels,
& Frank Louis

18:00 – 18:20 **Andrew Livingstone**

*'The Ceramics Reader: exploring ceramics and writing'
(Book ed. by Andrew Livingstone & Kevin Petrie)*

18:20 – 19:00 Drinks

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Saturday 18/11

09:00 – 09:30	Registration and coffee
09:30 – 10:30	Keynote: Ranti Tjan <i>'Let's climb the hill and eat some apple pie'</i>
10:30 – 10:40	Questions & debate
10:40 – 10:45	Interlude
10:45 – 11:00	Tilman Meyer-Faje, Kerstin Abraham and students <i>'From time to time: ceramics as time based media'</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Wendy Gers <i>'Computational ceramics'</i> Panel discussion with Jonathan Keep, Adam Abel & Christopher Kelsall
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12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
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13:30 – 14:30	Keynote: Eylem Aladogan <i>'The arch of belief'</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Questions & debate
14:45 – 15:05	Julia Pelta Feldman <i>'Clay on the streets: Charles Simonds's Dwellings'</i>
15:05 – 15:25	Clare Beattie <i>'The social and poetical currency of ceramics through the lens of experimental methodology'</i>
15:25 – 15:40	Questions & debate
15:40 – 16:10	Interlude and coffee
16:10 – 16:30	Tessa Peters <i>'Participatory art: ceramic and social praxis'</i>
16:30 – 16:50	Johan Valcke <i>'Treasures in clay: exploring ceramics in Belgium in time and space'</i>
16:50 – 17:00	Concluding remarks (Vlad Ionescu)
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18:00 – 19:00	Drinks at the Expo
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Clay Matters – Relevant locations

Ceramics Division PXL-MAD, Elfde-Liniestraat 25, B-3500 Hasselt

Lunches

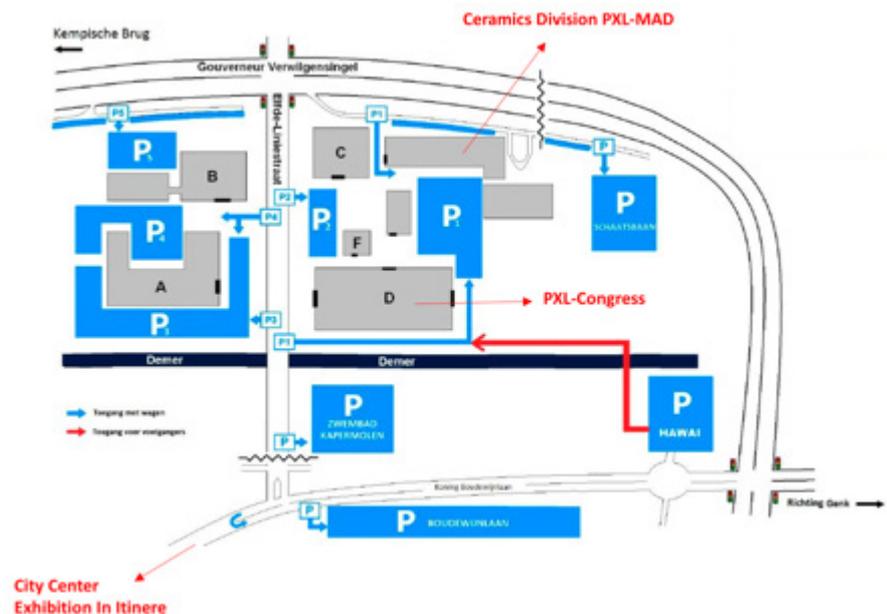
PXL-Congress, Elfde-Liniestraat 23, B-3500 Hasselt

Meeting rooms for the symposium

Herkenrodekazerne, Maastrichterstraat 100, B-3500 Hasselt

Exhibition (opening Thursday 16 November, 2017, 19:00)

The City of Hasselt is easily accessible by direct train connections from the main cities of Belgium and by car via highway E314. The main activities of Clay Matters are situated on the campus of The PXL University College (Elfde-Liniestraat, B-3500 Hasselt) that can be reached on foot in ten minutes from the town center. Alternatively, there is the bus line H2, leaving from Hasselt train station at platform number 4. In case you travel by car, there are several parking places at the campus (see map below).



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Clay Matters – Registration

Registration fee **Friday** 17 November, 2017: **40,00**

Registration fee **Saturday** 18 November, 2017: **40,00**

Registration fee **Friday and Saturday** 17/18 November, 2017: **70,00**

Registration is **free** for students affiliated to a college of arts or university but registration is compulsory

Registration deadline: 30/10

Registration and payment via:

www.pxl.be/event/claymatters

Questions concerning Clay Matters:

Bert Willems, Head of Research, MAD-Research, PXL-MAD, School of Arts,
bert.willems@uhasselt.be

Marieke Pauwels, Head of Ceramics Division, PXL-MAD School of Arts,
marieke.pauwels@pxl.be

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