

## INFORMATIONS



**Ville et Métiers d'art**  
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[contact@wma.asso.fr](mailto:contact@wma.asso.fr)  
[www.vma.asso.fr](http://www.vma.asso.fr)

**INMA** (National Arts and Crafts Institute)  
Tél. +33 1 55 78 85 85  
[www.institut-metiersdart.org](http://www.institut-metiersdart.org)

**CMA** (Arts and Crafts Council)  
Président : Monsieur le Ministre de la Culture et de la Communication  
Tél. +33 1 40 15 80 00

**Catalan Ironwork Association**  
Tél. +33 4 68 83 90 60  
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**Sources et bibliographie**  
Dépliants « Itinéraires de l'Excellence »  
« Ville et Métiers d'Art,  
« Archipel des Métiers d'Art en Languedoc-Roussillon »,  
« A la rencontre des Métiers d'Art en Languedoc-Roussillon, Pyrénées-Orientales »

**Links**  
[www.tourisme-haut-vallespir.com](http://www.tourisme-haut-vallespir.com)  
[www.association-ferronnerie-catalane.fr/](http://www.association-ferronnerie-catalane.fr/)  
[www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com](http://www.tourisme-pyreneesorientales.com)

Across France, there's a wide variety of expertise in various arts and crafts, some of them even multi-secular. This network of excellence spans many fields of activities (architecture, gardens, furniture, decoration, lights, jewellery, goldsmiths, clock-making, metalworks, ceramics, glass and crystal, marquetry, fashion and accessories, fabric, leather goods, shows, paper, graphics and printing, games, toys and mechanical works, instrument making and the catering business). Craftsmanship in France represents 69,000 companies with a turnover of 15 billion euros, not including tax. (source: the Ville et Métiers d'art association).

The "Ville et Métiers d'Art" label was created upon the initiative of local MPs in May 1992 when they met with professionals who brought up the topic of promoting the wealth and diversity of arts and crafts in their town. The label now covers a selection of 80 establishments (across 500 towns) who showcase excellence and authenticity. The goal is

- ✓ to encourage the development of exceptional expertise and ensure it is passed on,
- ✓ to make it easier for craftspeople to set up their business,
- ✓ to develop cultural tourism,
- ✓ to provide support for training,
- ✓ to promote professions in the arts.

In the Pyrénées-Orientales, the town of Arles-sur-Tech was awarded this label in 1998 after the very first Artistic Ironworks European Event (Rencontres Européennes de Ferronnerie d'art). In 2019, the 21st edition of this international gathering of ironwork artists was held. In Arles-sur-Tech we can still see evidence of the former Catalan forges which are proof that iron ore was once extracted from the Canigou mountains. The town is well-known for its talented craftspeople who create fittings, locks, hinges, candlesticks, shields and Catalan knives, to name but a few of their works of art.

In the former Catalan fabric plant, that the town purchased in 2012, **workshops devoted to arts and crafts** were created as well as a **shop selling the creations of around fifteen creators**. You can take a tour of the former weaving machines room to revisit this recent industrial past.

- ✓ The **Moulin des arts et de l'artisanat**: cutlery, ironworks, copperware, metalworks for stained-glass windows, fusing (a glassmaking technique) and painting workshops, and an area for the expression of contemporary art.
- ✓ The **Rencontres européennes de ferronnerie d'art**, held every 2 years, groups together around 200 blacksmiths at the Carreau de la Mine. Public forge and night-time forge.

## SERVICE PRESSE

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## PYRÉNÉES MÉDITERRANÉE EN PAYS CATALAN

Agence de Développement Touristique des Pyrénées-Orientales

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