



# MANUFACTO, THE SKILLS FACTORY

PRESS RELEASE

## The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès is delighted to announce the launch in November 2016 of a new programme for schools, introducing pupils to the world of artisanship.

Under the title *Manufacto, the Skills Factory* ('*Manufacto, la fabrique des savoir-faire*'), the programme aims to promote artisan skills to the public at large. Initiated and implemented by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès and the Paris public schools authority, Manufacto will operate in collaboration with France's national artisan apprentice schemes, the Compagnons du Devoir et du Tour de France, and in partnership with the École Camondo school of decorative arts, in Paris.

*Manufacto* launches in November 2016 for a pilot year in six Paris schools, working with pupils aged 6 to 18. Three skilled group leaders — an artisan joiner or leather-worker, a designer and one teacher — will work with pupils to create their own decorative objects through a series of practical, technical workshops.

Based on the findings of this pilot year, the programme will be refined and rolled out on a more extensive scale.

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Cover: Photo Alfredo Piola  
Courtesy of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

The aim of *Manufacto, the Skills Factory* is to highlight craft skills which, for the most part, have the value of being highly creative professions. They lead to the creation of numerous companies, and can allow some craftsmen to travel around the world, so as to promote French knowhow.

Through the discovery of the materials, skills and creative gestures that belong to the crafts of wood and leather (for its inaugural year), *Manufacto* then aims to highlight an openness to the world of craftsmanship, in the years to come.

This programme is the fruition of a series of reflections by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès which, for several years, has been focusing on highlighting the contemporary development of arts and crafts. This approach can in particular be seen in its support for NGOs and associations, both in France and abroad, as well as the launching of the *Skills Academy* ('*Académie des savoir-faire*') in 2014.

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF MANUFACTO, THE SKILLS FACTORY?

- Valorising hand crafts among students and educative teams.
- Allowing students to discover the gestures associated with the world of craft skills.
- Giving an aesthetic approach to students, thus leading them to examine the roles of the objects around them, as well as their forms and materials.
- Allowing students to discover new aptitudes thanks to “non-academic” teaching.
- Promoting the values conveyed by these crafts, such as transmission, mutual help and rigour.

## ITS MAIN WORKING PRINCIPLES

During the 2016–2017 school year, six classes (4th, 5th, 8th, 9th and 11th grades) are concerned, spread out over six state schools in Paris: two primary, three middle and one high schools.

Each class that volunteers to take part in the programme *Manufacto* will be able to experience the transformation of materials and the production of an object during a cycle of 12 technical practices workshops. It has been decided to make this a long-term project, so as to turn this initiation into a structural learning curve.

The cycle takes place during school hours, in the classroom. It also includes visits to workshops. Planned with the schools, these actions will be spread out over a period of four to five months.

At the end of the cycle, each student will be able to keep the object which he or she has made. While the finished object is a goal, the steps in its production will introduce the students to encounters, discoveries and the pleasure of making.

In the future, it is planned that *Manufacto* will extend its partnership to other local Boards of Education.



# PRESS IMAGES

High-resolution visuals available for download at: [www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/Phototheque](http://www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/Phototheque)  
(password on request)



Photo François Goudier  
Courtesy of the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès



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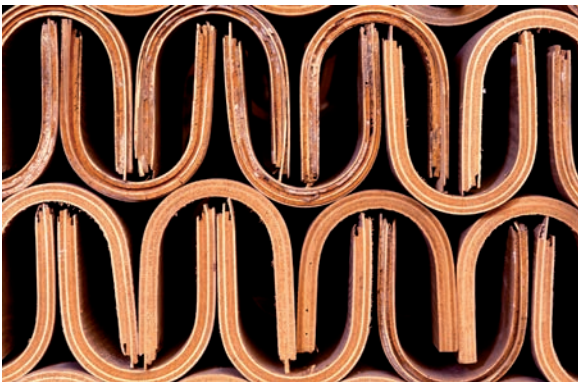


Photo François Goudier  
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Photo François Goudier  
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Photo Giampaolo Vimercati  
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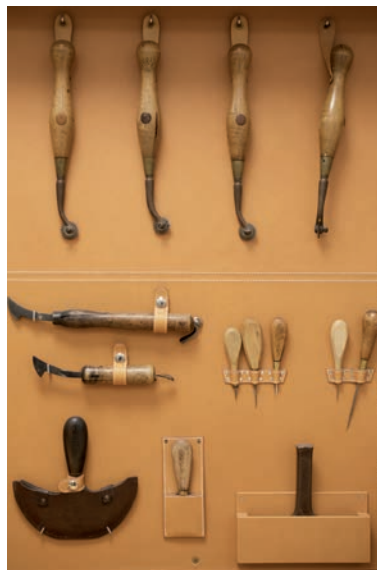


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## FONDATION D'ENTREPRISE HERMÈS

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports men and women seeking to learn, perfect, transmit and celebrate the creative skills that shape our lives today and into the future.

The Foundation operates nine major programmes with a combined focus on skills, creativity and transmission:

**New Settings** for the performing arts, **exhibitions** and **artists' residencies** for the visual arts, **Immersion** for photography, the **Prix Émile Hermès** for design, **Manufacto, the Skills Factory** and our **Skills Academy** for the discovery and perfection of artisan trades. **H3** is the Foundation's worldwide programme of support for organisations whose work reflects these central aims. Our **Biodiversity** programme enacts a core commitment to protect fragile ecosystems for future generations.

The Foundation's diverse activities are governed by a single, over-arching belief: *Our gestures define us.*

## THE PARIS BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Paris Educational Authority applies the policies of the Ministry of Education in France's capital city. Paris is the sole Educational Authority covering just one *département* in mainland France. It is now part of the Île-de-France Regional Educational Authority, with Creteil and Versailles. It includes 773 schools, with 350 middle and high schools, over 330,000 students and a staff of about 29,000 in all.

## LES COMPAGNONS DU DEVOIR AND DU TOUR DE FRANCE

*Les Compagnons du Devoir* form an association whose twofold objective is a human and professional education, through transmission and journeying. Its current name is the *Association Ouvrière des Compagnons du Devoir du Tour de France*.

The avowed aim of *Les Compagnons du Devoir* is to allow each person it adopts to find fulfilment in, and thanks to, a trade, to promote crafts, professional education and being a "journeyman", while providing vocational training. To carry out these actions, the association boasts 82 *Maisons de Compagnons*, including 48 which house educational workshops. Each year, these workshops welcome over 10,000 people, who are following one of the three programmes on offer: initial training, mentoring through travelling (generally called *Le Tour de France*), and continuous training.

*Les Compagnons du Devoir* provide training in trades involving the frequent use of manual skills, and in which the gestures require knowhow. Currently, these courses cover 29 trades, divided into 6 categories: fitting and finishing, construction, gastronomy, flexible materials, the metal industry, and "life crafts".

## ÉCOLE CAMONDO

Attached to the establishment Les Arts Décoratifs, the teaching of the École Camondo is carried out with a certain sensitivity to the question of knowledge. The interior architects and designers it educates live out their trade in a constant, fertile relationship with hand crafts, exceptional skills, and the made-to-measure. They are contemporary assemblers of our interiors and, more generally, of the habitat in which we live. The École Camondo's contribution to *Manufacto* is original: its teachers of design working with the students at the end of their studies, so as to conceive objects to be produced by craftsmen and young students, while also training them to supervise the running of projects in middle and high schools. The teachers and students then train, in their turn, year after year, those will later succeed them in this guidance.

