

OPEN STUDIO

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY
CERAMICS PRIZE

2026

MONTELUPO FIORENTINO

REGULATIONS

Second Edition of the Montelupo Fiorentino International Contemporary Ceramics Award

Article 1 – Purpose

On the occasion of the **Festival Internazionale Cèramica 2026**, taking place in Montelupo Fiorentino from 5 to 20 December 2026, **Fondazione Ceramica Montelupo ETS** announces the second edition of the **OPEN STUDIO International Contemporary Ceramics Award**.

The competition offers four cash prizes and two official artist residency awards, as well as additional residency opportunities, special mentions and technical awards provided by the project's partners. Its aim is to explore the diversity of research carried out by national and international artists, showcasing the most innovative contemporary ceramic practices and offering new perspectives on contemporary ceramic production.

The **OPEN STUDIO 2026** project is supported by **Fondazione CR Firenze** through its **Visual Arts grant programme**.

Cultural and Technical Partners

- Municipality of Montelupo Fiorentino
- Fondazione Vittoriano Bitossi
- Colorobbia Italia S.p.A.
- Associazione Spazio X Tempo – Atelier Marco Bagnoli
- Museum of Manises – Contemporary Ceramics Biennial
- Italian Association of Ceramic Cities (AICC)
- CNA Firenze Metropolitana
- Associazione Strada della Ceramica Montelupo Fiorentino
- D'A – Design e Artigianato, Applied and Decorative Arts
- Finestre sull'Arte, Ancient and Contemporary Art

Article 2 – Eligibility Criteria

Participation in the Award is free of charge and open to artists, either individually or as part of a collective, of any nationality, who are at least 18 years of age on the date of publication of this call and who wish to submit works of contemporary ceramic art.

Each participant may submit one artwork only.

Submitted works must be original, created within the last two years, preferably unpublished and not previously entered in other competitions.

All artistic ceramic techniques are eligible. Artworks may incorporate additional supporting materials, provided that these remain secondary to the ceramic work as a whole.

Article 3 – Application Procedure and Deadline

Participation in the competition is free of charge.

Applications must be submitted exclusively by completing and signing the application **form** available via the [OPEN STUDIO Application](#) Form link no later than **19 October 2026**.

Applications submitted by any means other than those specified in these Regulations will not be accepted.

Requests for further information may be sent to:

openstudio@gmail.com

The Organiser accepts no responsibility for applications that are not received for any reason.

In the case of collective submissions, the application shall be deemed to have been submitted on behalf of all members of the collective by the designated lead applicant. It is the sole responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that all members of the collective have authorised the submission. Each artist may participate in one application only, either individually or as a member of a collective.

Participation in the OPEN STUDIO Award implies full knowledge and unconditional acceptance of these regulations and all accompanying documents.

Article 4 – Selection of Finalist Works and Awards

A distinguished artistic jury with recognised scientific and curatorial expertise, appointed by the Organiser after the closing date for applications referred to in Article 3, will select a maximum of 50 finalist works. These works will be presented in a dedicated exhibition, included in the printed catalogue of the OPEN STUDIO Award, and considered for the attribution of the prizes provided for in these Regulations. Specific categories are reserved for artists under 35, intended for participants who have not reached the age of 35 by the application deadline specified in Article 3.

A cash prize will also be awarded to the artwork receiving the highest number of votes from visitors to the finalist exhibition, which will be open to the public at the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale from 5 December 2026 to 21 March 2027.

4.1) CASH PRIZES FOR WINNING WORKS

- **OPEN STUDIO** – Main Section – cash prize of €2,000.00
- **OPEN STUDIO** – Under 35 – cash prize of €2,000.00
- **OPEN STUDIO** – Montelupo Ceramics – cash prize of €1,000.00
- **OPEN STUDIO** – People's Choice Award – cash prize of €500.00

In the event of a tie (ex aequo) for any of the prizes, the prize amount will be equally divided among the winning artists.

Participation in the **Montelupo Ceramics** category is exclusively reserved for artists working within the production area of Montelupo Fiorentino ceramics and for artists who are members of the Associazione Strada della Ceramica di Montelupo Fiorentino.

During the application process, artists must indicate their chosen competition category. Selecting the specific category excludes participation in the main competition section and in the other prize categories, with the exception of the People's Choice Award and any prizes that may be awarded by the project partners.

4.2) ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMMES AT THE CENTRO CERAMICO SPERIMENTALE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2027

Open Studio - Main Section Residency - Artist residency 2027 – value €1,500.00

Open Studio - Under 35 Residency - Artist residency 2027 – value €1,500.00

The residency awards consist of grants redeemable at the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale di Montelupo Fiorentino, offered by the Organiser, for the development of an artistic research project in ceramics. The residency includes a public presentation of the outcomes at the end of the project (project room and public presentation), to be realised between January and April 2027, with a duration to be determined according to the research project and the allocation of available resources.

Two residency opportunities are available, one of which is specifically reserved for artists under 35.

The residency programme includes:

- The development of an artistic research project through in-depth exploration of the characteristics of the local area, the museum and the production chain, using techniques and materials made available by the Organiser. The residency will take place between January and April 2027, concluding with a public presentation of the project's outcomes.
- The organisation of a workshop for a maximum of 12 participants during the residency period.
- The development of a production project for a limited and numbered collection consisting of 20 small-sized pieces, to be created in accordance with the aforementioned research project.

Before the start of the residency, the Artist shall submit a draft project or initial project proposal to the Organiser for evaluation and discussion, in order to define the organisational arrangements consistent with the residency grant awarded. The artworks produced, according to the quantities and types specified in the approved project, shall be allocated as follows:

- The Organiser shall retain one significant and representative artwork illustrating the artistic research project. The selection of this work shall be agreed upon jointly by the Artist and the Organiser, and it shall become part of the contemporary collections of the Foundation.
- Regarding the production of the limited and numbered edition, the artworks produced shall remain 50% the property of the Artist and 50% the property of the Organiser, which may use them within the scope of its institutional activities.
- All remaining works produced shall remain the property of the Artist.

The value of the residency award is considered gross of travel, food and accommodation expenses for the Artist, who may organise the residency period according to their own needs, as well as production costs.

4.3) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FREE PARTICIPATION IN SPECIALIST WORKSHOPS ORGANISED BY THE CENTRO CERAMICO SPERIMENTALE OF MONTELUPO FIORENTINO

2 scholarships, each with a value of €350.00, redeemable at the Scuola di Ceramica di Montelupo Fiorentino and valid for courses included in the 2027 training programme. The scholarships may also be applied towards courses with a higher tuition fee, with the recipient paying the remaining balance.

In addition, artist residency awards, special mentions and technical prizes offered by the project partners will be assigned. These awards will be announced during the publication period of the open call and/or at the award ceremony.

Article 5 – Jury

The Award will appoint a jury composed of distinguished experts invited by the Organiser. The members of the jury will be appointed and announced after the application deadline.

The jury will select up to 50 finalist works, evaluating each submission on the basis of its concept, aesthetic quality, technical excellence and innovation. The results will be communicated by **email to the selected artists and published on the official website by 5 November 2026**. The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Article 6 – Delivery of the Finalist Works

Artists selected as finalists must deliver their artwork, at their own expense, to the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale di Montelupo Fiorentino at the address below no later than **22 November 2026**.

For shipped works, only the date of receipt will be considered valid.

Works may also be delivered in person to the Scuola di Ceramica di Montelupo Fiorentino from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., by appointment only.
telephone. 0571 1590007.

**SCUOLA DI CERAMICA
CENTRO CERAMICO SPERIMENTALE
Via Antonio Gramsci, 8
50056 Montelupo Fiorentino**

All costs related to the production, packaging, shipment and return of the artwork at the end of the exhibition shall be borne by the participant.

Artworks must be professionally packed. The outside of each package must clearly indicate the artist's **full name together with the reference OPEN STUDIO Award**.

The Organiser will exercise the utmost care in handling all artworks but cannot be held liable for any accidental damage.

The Organiser, its staff and the project partners shall likewise be released from any liability for damage discovered upon opening the original packaging in which the artwork was shipped.

Participants expressly release Fondazione Ceramica Montelupo ETS and the project partners from any responsibility for theft, loss or damage occurring during storage, installation, exhibition or the return shipment of the artworks, regardless of the cause.

Should an artwork arrive damaged, the Organiser will provide photographic documentation of the damage and reserves the right to decide whether the work can be exhibited.

Article 7 – Exhibition and Catalogue

The selected works will be exhibited at the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale di Montelupo Fiorentino **from 5 December 2026 to 21 March 2027** as part of the OPEN STUDIO exhibition.

The exhibition will be accompanied by the publication of an official catalogue in Italian and English.

Admission to the exhibition is free of charge. Opening hours will be published in November 2026.

The award ceremony will take place on 21 March 2027.

The Organiser reserves the right to amend the dates and arrangements of the exhibition and award ceremony if necessary.

Article 8 – Collection of Artworks

Finalist artworks may be collected after the closing of the exhibition, from 22 to 26 March 2027.

For artworks that must be returned by shipment organised by the Organiser, the delivery arrangements must be agreed in advance with the administrative office and all shipping costs shall be borne by the Artist.

If the artworks are not collected within the above-mentioned dates, they shall remain at the sole disposal of the Foundation, unless otherwise agreed in advance for exceptional reasons.

The artworks awarded the three main prizes — **OPEN STUDIO – Main Section, OPEN STUDIO – Under 35, and OPEN STUDIO – Montelupo Ceramics** — shall become the property of the Organiser and may not be replaced with other artworks of similar nature and/or different value.

Artworks receiving other prizes and/or special mentions may instead be collected within the deadlines indicated above.

Article 9 – Publications

The Organiser reserves the right to publish images of the participating artworks on the official website of the event and through other web and social media channels available to the Organiser and/or the project partners. The Organiser also reserves the right to reproduce and use images of the artworks for press releases and/or reports related to the event activities, including publication in newspapers, specialised magazines, electronic communication channels and television broadcasts.

The Organiser further reserves the right to use these images in any form deemed appropriate (printed materials, publications, posters, flyers, etc.), including for future editions of the competition, and to produce a printed catalogue of the selected artworks.

The catalogue will include texts written by members of the artistic jury and/or by representatives of the participating institutions, in both Italian and English.

Copies of the catalogue may be purchased during the exhibition or ordered directly from the Organiser. Each finalist will receive one free copy, while the other participating artists will be able to purchase a copy at a discounted price.

Article 10 – Timeline and Deadlines

19/10/2026 **Application** deadline

19/10/2026 Publication of the **members of the Artistic Jury**

05/11/2026 Announcement of selected **finalists** via email and on the Organizer's website

22/11/2026 Final deadline for **delivery** of artworks

05/12/2026 Opening of the **Cèramica Festival** and **inauguration** of the exhibition

21/03/2027 **Finissage, award and special mention ceremony, and catalogue presentation**

22-26/03/2027 Dates for in-person **collection** at the School and/or shipment of artworks by courier

Article 11 – Data Processing and Further Information

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and subsequent amendments concerning the protection of personal data, by submitting an application to this call, the Artist authorizes the processing of their personal data and its use by the Organizer.

The Organizer reserves the right to amend or cancel the call for applications at any time.

For further information regarding participation procedures and the competition regulations, please contact the Organising Secretariat by email at: openstudiomontelupo@gmail.com

Telephone: +39 0571 1590007

This call for applications and the registration form will be published on the websites of the Organiser and the project partners. Applicants are advised to consult these websites regularly for any updates:

www.scuolaceramica.it

www.fondazionemuseomontelupo.it

www.montelupoceramica.com

Privacy Policy and Release Form for the Use of Images, Videos and Personal Data

In the case of collective participation, this form must be completed and signed by each individual participant and submitted together as a **single PDF file**.

Processing of Personal Data

Participation in this call for applications requires the applicant to provide data and information, including documentary material, which fall within the scope of application of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 and the applicable national privacy legislation.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned regulations, the Foundation is required to provide certain information regarding the use of such data.

Personal data are collected for the purposes of participation in the call for applications, in particular for carrying out the necessary checks and for the payment of awards, and in any case in compliance with applicable legal requirements.

The processing of personal data will be carried out in a manner that guarantees security and confidentiality and may be performed using electronic and digital tools suitable for storing, managing and transmitting such data.

Such data may also be combined with data relating to other subjects according to qualitative, quantitative and temporal criteria established from time to time.

Some of the information provided during the application process may be communicated to external parties other than the Foundation and/or published, in accordance with and within the limits established by applicable legislation.

With regard to the above-mentioned data, the participant, as a data subject, is granted the rights provided for under Articles 15–21 of GDPR 2016/679.

Submission of the application confirms that the applicant has read and understood the procedures relating to the processing of personal data described in this privacy notice.

The Data Controller is:

Fondazione Ceramica Montelupo ETS

The Artist authorizes the use of photographic and video material produced during the project and its publication through the project's communication channels and in the press, by Fondazione Ceramica Montelupo ETS, the project partners and any appointed collaborators.

In the case of collective participation, acceptance and signature of the privacy notice and the release for the use of images shall be understood as having been granted by all members of the artistic team.

It is the sole responsibility of the lead applicant to have obtained the authorisation of all other participants.

OPEN STUDIO

PREMIO INTERNAZIONALE
DI CERAMICA CONTEMPORANEA
2026
MONTELUPO FIORENTINO

UN PROGETTO DI



Fondazione Ceramica
Montelupo ETS



SCUOLA DI CERAMICA
MONTELUPO FIORENTINO

PER IL FESTIVAL CÈRAMICA 2026 - MONTELUPO FIORENTINO

CÈRAMICA 2026

CON IL CONTRIBUTO DEL PROGRAMMA ARTI VISIVE



FONDAZIONE
CR FIRENZE

IN COLLABORAZIONE CON



Comune di
Montelupo
Fiorentino

FONDAZIONE
VITTORIANO
BITOSSÌ

COLOROBBLIA



Associazione
Spazio X Tempo



Artigiani
Imprenditori
d'Italia

Firenze - Area Metropolitana



STRADA DELLA CERAMICA
MONTELUPO FIORENTINO



MUSEU
CERÀMICA
MANISES

MEDIA PARTNER



Design e Artigianato,
Arti Applicate e Decorative

Finestre sull'Arte

ARTE ANTICA E CONTEMPORANEA

FONDAZIONE CERAMICA MONTELUPO – ETS

Sede Legale e Amministrativa: Museo della Ceramica – Piazza Vittorio Veneto, 11

Sede secondaria e operativa: Scuola di Ceramica – Via Gramsci, 8

50056 Montelupo Fiorentino (FI)

Ph. 0039 0571917650 piva 06271030485

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