

# OPEN STUDIO

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY  
CERAMICS PRIZE

2025



Fondazione Museo  
Montelupo *Chianti*



SCUOLA DI CERAMICA  
MONTELUPO FIORENTINO



Regione Toscana

GIOVANI *si*



# RULES

## First Edition of the Montelupo Fiorentino International Contemporary Ceramics Prize

### Art. 1 – PURPOSE

On the occasion of the **Festival Internazionale Cèramica 2025**, which will take place in Montelupo Fiorentino from 6 to 21 December 2025, the **Fondazione Museo Montelupo Onlus**, in collaboration with the Municipality of Montelupo Fiorentino, the Ceramics School, and the Experimental Ceramics Center, promotes the first edition of the **International Contemporary Ceramics Prize "OPEN STUDIO"**.

The competition, which includes three cash prizes, two residency awards, as well as honourable mentions and technical prizes offered by the project partners, aims to explore the diversity of approaches by national and international artists, highlighting the most current experimental practices and offering a new perspective on contemporary ceramic production.

The OPEN STUDIO project is supported by the **Tuscany Region** as part of the **Toscanaincontemporanea2025** regional initiative program.

### Art. 2 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Participation in the Prize is free of charge and open to artists, either individually or as part of a collective, of any nationality, who have reached 18 years of age on the date of publication of the following Notice, who wish to submit works of contemporary ceramic art.

Each artist may submit one work, which must comply with the following maximum dimensions: 100 x 70 x 70 cm (height x width x depth).

Submitted works must be original, created within the last two years, preferably previously unpublished and not submitted to other competitions.

All artistic ceramic techniques are allowed. The use of additional supporting materials is permitted only if they play a secondary role in the overall composition of the work.

### Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

Participation in the competition is free of charge.

Applications must be submitted by completing and signing **attachment A**, and sent by **October 12, 2025** to the following email address: [openstudio@museomontelupo.it](mailto:openstudio@museomontelupo.it)

with the subject line: **"Open Studio 2025 – Application for Participation"**.

**Applications submitted through any other method will not be accepted.**

The Organizer assumes no responsibility for applications that are not received.

The following documents must be submitted in separate files as detailed below:

- A folder containing **three high-resolution digital photographs** (300 dpi – preferably minimum 3000x4000 pixels) of the submitted work on a neutral background: two full views and one close-up, in **.jpg or .png** format. These images will be used for the jury selection process (as per Article 5) and for potential publication in the Prize's finalist catalogue. **Renderings are not allowed.**
- **The completed application form** (Attachment A), duly filled and signed in all required sections, including the privacy notice and image/data release authorization, in **.pdf** format. **Both handwritten and digital signatures are accepted.**
- A concept statement explaining the artistic and technical aspects of the work (max 300 characters), in **.pdf format, using the template provided in the application form.**
- **An artist biography outlining the applicant's artistic background**, updated and including any relevant links to personal websites or portfolios (max 750 characters), in **.pdf** format, using the template provided in the application form.
- **A copy of a valid identity document** of the person signing the application, in **.pdf, .jpg or .png** format.



In the case of collective participation, the application must be signed by the lead artist as well as all members of the artistic team.  
**Each artist may submit only one application, either individually or as part of a collective.**

Participation in the Open Studio Prize implies full knowledge and acceptance of these regulations and all related attachment.

#### **Art. 4 – SELECTION OF FINALIST WORKS AND PRIZES**

An Artistic Jury, appointed by the Organizer after the application deadline (as stated in Article 3), will select up to 50 finalist works, which will be featured in a dedicated exhibition and included in the printed Open Studio Prize catalogue. These works will compete for the designated prizes.

There will be specific categories reserved for Under 35 artists, open to those who have not yet turned 35 years old by the application deadline (see Article 3).

In addition, a public choice award will be granted to the work that receives the most votes from visitors attending the finalist exhibition, which will be held at the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale from December 6 to 21, 2025.

##### **4.1) CASH PRIZES FOR WINNING WORKS**

**Open Studio - Main section** - cash prize of Euro 1.500,00

**Open Studio - Under 35** - cash prize of Euro 1.500,00

**Open Studio - Audience Award** - cash prize of Euro 500,00

In the case of a tie, prizes will be divided among the winning participants.

##### **4.2) ARTIST RESIDENCIES AT THE CENTRO CERAMICO SPERIMENTALE, TO BE HELD IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2026:**

**Open Studio - Main section Residency** - artist residency 2026 - value euro 1.500,00

**Open Studio - Under 35 Residency** - artist residency 2026 - value euro 1.500,00

The residencies are offered by the Organizer in the form of grants to be used at the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale in Montelupo Fiorentino, for the development of an artistic ceramic research project.

The residencies will culminate in a public presentation of the work produced (in the form of a project room or other format) and must take place between January and March 2026.

The duration of each residency will be determined based on the project proposal and available resources.

Two residency awards are available, one of which is reserved for artists Under 35.

#### **Residency Program**

The residency program includes:

- The development of an artistic research project to be carried out through in-depth sessions exploring the local area, the museum, and the regional ceramic production chain, with the use of materials and techniques provided by the Organizer.
- The residency period, which will take place between January and March 2026, at the end of which the artist will publicly present the outcomes of the project.
- The organization of a workshop for a maximum of 12 participants during the residency period.
- The development and production of a numbered and limited-edition collection, consisting of 20 small-scale pieces, based on the aforementioned research project.

The selected artist commits to submitting, before the start of the residency, a draft project or conceptual proposal to the Organizer, in order to enable its evaluation and discussion, with the goal of defining the most appropriate organizational details in line with the awarded grant.

The works produced during the residency, in the quantities and typologies to be defined in the final project proposal, will be divided as follows:

- The Organizer will retain one significant and representative artwork from the research project, to be jointly selected by the Artist and the Organizer, which will be added to the contemporary art collections of the Foundation.
- For the limited and numbered edition, 50% of the produced pieces will remain the property of the Artist, while 50% will be retained by the Organizer, who may use them within the scope of its institutional activities.
- All remaining works produced during the residency will be the property of the Artist.

The residency award amount is considered gross, and includes all costs related to the artist's travel, food, lodging, and production expenses. The artist will be free to organize the residency period according to their personal needs and project timeline.

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

- **Fabienne Withofs Workshop – Under 35**

Voucher for free participation in the workshop held by Fabienne Withofs (Montelupo Fiorentino, Centro Ceramico Sperimentale, 13–14 December 2025);

- **Eric Landon (Tortus) Workshop – Under 35**

Voucher for free participation in the workshop held by Eric Landon (Tortus) (Montelupo Fiorentino, Centro Ceramico Sperimentale, 20–21 December 2025).

**Additionally, special mentions and technical awards offered by project partners will be assigned and communicated during the publication period of the call and/or during the award ceremony.**

#### Art. 5 - ARTISTIC JURY

The Prize includes the appointment of a jury of experts, invited by the Organizer. The names of the jury members will be disclosed after the application deadline.

The jury will select a maximum of 50 finalist works, based on criteria such as concept, aesthetic value, technical execution, and innovation.

The final results **will be sent via email to the selected participants and published on the official website by 30 October 2025.**

The decisions of the Jury are final and irrevocable.

#### Art. 6 – DELIVERY OF FINALIST WORKS

Each selected finalist must arrange for the delivery of their artwork at their own expense to the following address **no later than 21 November 2025:**

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

Only the actual date of delivery will be considered valid for the deadline.

Direct hand deliveries will be accepted at the Ceramics School of Montelupo Fiorentino during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM
- Afternoons (by appointment only): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

For appointments and information: +39 0571 1590007

**All costs related to the creation, packaging, shipping, and return of the artwork after the event shall be borne by the participants.**

The artworks must be properly packaged, and the parcel must clearly display on the outside **the artist's full name and a reference to the OPEN STUDIO Prize.**

The organizers will take every care in handling the artworks, but under no circumstances can they be held responsible for any accidental damage.

The Promoter and its collaborators, including project partners, shall likewise be indemnified and held harmless from any liability for potential damages the artworks may incur upon opening the parcels and/or the original packaging in which they are shipped to the venue.

Participants waive any liability on the part of the Foundation's administration and project partners for theft, damage, or loss occurring during the storage, setup, exhibition, or return of the works.

In the event of damage, the organizers will send photographic evidence of the condition of the artwork, reserving the right not to exhibit it.

#### Art. 7 - EXHIBITION AND CATALOGUE

The selected artworks will be exhibited at the Centro Ceramico Sperimentale di Montelupo Fiorentino **from 6 to 21 December 2025**, as part of the Open Studio exhibition. The event will be accompanied by the publication of an official bilingual catalogue (Italian and English). Admission to the exhibition is free. Opening hours will be announced in November 2025.

**The awards ceremony will take place on 20 December 2025, during the closing event of the exhibition, at a time to be announced as the project progresses.**

The organizers reserve the right to modify dates and modalities.



## Art. 8 - COLLECTION OF ARTWORKS

Finalist artworks may be collected after the close of the exhibition, on **22 and 23 December 2025** (starting from the day after the **closing of the exhibition on 21/12/2025**).

For artworks that need to be shipped back by the Promoter, the shipment must be arranged in advance with the Secretariat office and will be at the artist's expense.

If collection does not occur within the specified dates, the artworks will remain under the sole responsibility and ownership of the Fondazione, unless exceptional circumstances are communicated and agreed upon in advance.

The artworks awarded in the two main sections, **Open Studio – Main Section** and **Open Studio – Under 35**, will become the property of the Promoter and may not be replaced with similar works and/or works of different value.

Artworks that have received other prizes and/or mentions may be collected within the aforementioned timeframe.

## Art. 9 - PUBLICATIONS

The Promoter reserves the right to publish images of the participating artworks on the official website of the event and through other web and social media tools managed by the Promoter and/or project partners.

The Promoter also reserves the right to reproduce and use such images to accompany press releases and/or for the event's documentation and communication, including publication in newspapers, specialized magazines, and dissemination via electronic and television media.

Furthermore, the Promoter reserves the right to use these images in any manner deemed appropriate (print materials, publications, posters, flyers, etc.), also for future editions of the competition, and to produce a printed Catalogue of the selected works.

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

Copies of the catalogue may be purchased during the exhibition or ordered from the Promoter.

Each finalist will receive one complimentary copy of the catalogue; all other participating artists may purchase it at a discounted price.

## Art. 10 - PHASES AND DEADLINES

- 12 October 2025 – **Deadline for submitting** applications to: [openstudio@museomontelupo.it](mailto:openstudio@museomontelupo.it)
- 13 October 2025 – Announcement of the **members of the Artistic Jury**
- 30 October 2025 – Notification of the selected **finalists** via email and publication on the Promoter's website
- 21 November 2025 – Final deadline for **delivery** of artworks
- 6 December 2025 – Opening of the **Ceramica Festival** and the exhibition
- 20 December 2025 – **Finissage, awards ceremony and presentation of the catalogue**
- 21–23 December 2025 – In-person **collection** at the School and/or **return** shipping of the artworks via courier

## Art. 11 - DATA PROTECTION AND FURTHER INFORMATION

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 679/2016 (GDPR) and subsequent amendments on the protection of personal data, by applying to this call, the artist authorises the processing of their personal data and its use by the organisers.

The Promoter reserves the right to modify or cancel the call for entries at any time.

For further information regarding the participation procedures and regulations, please contact the Organisational Secretariat at:

[openstudio@museomontelupo.it](mailto:openstudio@museomontelupo.it)

**+39 0571 1590007**

**This call for entries and the application form will be published on the websites of the Promoter and the project partners. We recommend checking these websites regularly for any updates:**

[www.scuolaceramica.it](http://www.scuolaceramica.it)

[www.fondazionemuseomontelupo.it](http://www.fondazionemuseomontelupo.it)

[www.montelupoceramica.com](http://www.montelupoceramica.com)

## Attachment A - PARTICIPATION FORM

For groups, this form must be completed and signed by each participant

# OPEN STUDIO

International Contemporary Ceramics Prize  
Montelupo Fiorentino

To be completed in full and sent by **12 October 2025** to the following address:

[openstudio@museomontelupo.it](mailto:openstudio@museomontelupo.it)

**The undersigned:**

**PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE PARTICIPANT** (for individual participation or as lead artist of a team)

- Full Name:
- Date of Birth:
- Nationality:
- Full Address:
- Phone / Mobile:
- Email:

**Applying as:** (please check the appropriate box)

☐ **INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT**

☐ **LEAD ARTIST OF THE FOLLOWING ARTIST TEAM**

(The following sections must be filled in only in the case of group participation, with the details of all additional members):

### TEAM PARTICIPANT

- Full Name:
- Date of Birth:
- Nationality:
- Full Address:
- Phone / Mobile:
- Email:

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- Full Address:
- Phone / Mobile:
- Email:

### REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE International Contemporary Ceramics Prize "OPEN STUDIO" WITH THE FOLLOWING WORK:

**TITLE:**

**YEAR:**

**TECHNIQUE AND MATERIALS USED:**

**DIMENSIONS (HEIGHT X WIDTH X DEPTH IN CM):**

#### Concept of the work

(this text will be used by the Organizer for publication if selected among the finalists – **max 300 characters including spaces**):

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#### Updated biography of the artist or the team:

(this text will be used by the Organizer for publication if selected among the finalists – **max 750 characters including spaces**; include links to relevant web pages if applicable):

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#### DECLARES:

☐ That the submitted work is their own property, was created within the last two years, and that the application does not infringe upon the rights of any third party.

That the work:

☐ has been previously presented

☐ has not been previously presented in other competitions or exhibitions.

(If the work is not new, please specify the relevant competition(s) or exhibition(s))

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**ATTACH THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS**  
**(in a single email or compressed folder)**

- ☐ High-resolution images (max 3, JPG or PNG)
- ☐ Copy of a valid ID document (JPG, PNG or PDF)
- ☐ Privacy Policy and Release Form for the use of images, videos and personal data

**Participation in the Open Studio Prize implies full knowledge and acceptance of the regulations and all related attachment.**

**Place and date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** (For group submissions, the signature of each team member is required)

**PRIVACY POLICY AND RELEASE FORM**

(To be completed and **signed by each participant and submitted as a single PDF** in case of collective participation)

**Personal Data Processing**

In order to participate in this call for entries, applicants are required to provide personal data and information, including in documentary form, which fall within the scope of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 and relevant national legislation on privacy.

Pursuant to the aforementioned legislation, the Foundation is required to provide information regarding the use of such data.

The data will be collected for the purpose of participation in the call, particularly to carry out verifications and to enable the awarding of prizes, and in compliance with current legal requirements.

Data processing will be carried out in a manner that ensures security and confidentiality, and may involve electronic and digital tools suitable for storing, managing, and transmitting said data. These data may also be combined with those of other individuals based on qualitative, quantitative, and time-related criteria determined on a case-by-case basis.

Some of the data submitted with the application may be disclosed to third parties external to the Foundation and/or published, in accordance with and respecting the relevant legislation.

Concerning the above data, participants, as data subjects, are entitled to exercise the rights laid out in Articles 15–21 of GDPR 2016/679.

The submission of the application implies acknowledgment of this privacy notice and the modalities for personal data processing described herein.

The data controller is Fondazione Museo Montelupo Onlus.

**The artist agrees to the use of photo and video material produced during the project and to the publication of such materials on the communication channels of the project and in the press, by the Foundation, its project partners, and designated collaborators.**

**The Artist (Name and Surname)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Place and Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_



# OPEN STUDIO

INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY  
CERAMICS PRIZE

# 2025

UN PROGETTO DI



**Fondazione Museo  
Montelupo**  
ONLUS



**SCUOLA DI CERAMICA  
MONTELUPO FIORENTINO**



PER IL FESTIVAL CÈRAMICA 2025 - MONTELUPO FIORENTINO

CON IL CONTRIBUTO DI



Regione Toscana

**GIOVANI SÌ**



IN COLLABORAZIONE CON



**Montelupo  
Fiorentino**

**FONDAZIONE  
VITTORIANO  
BITOSI**

**COLOROBbia**



**CNA  
FIRENZE**  
Metropolitana



**STRADA DELLA CERAMICA  
MONTELUPO**  
PROGETTO

MEDIA PARTNER

**LA CERAMICA**  
AGENZIA E MARKING - AGENZIA PUBBLICITARIA

**FONDAZIONE MUSEO MONTELUPO – ONLUS**

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

50056 Montelupo Fiorentino (FI)

Ph. 0039 0571917650 piva 06271030485

[fondazionemuseomontelupo@pec.it](mailto:fondazionemuseomontelupo@pec.it)

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