



CITTÀ DI GROTTAGLIE

Provincia di Taranto

33rd CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS COMPETITION “MEDITERRANEO”

Grottaglie (TA), Puglia, Italy
4 July – 18 October 2026

REGULATIONS

The Municipal Administration of Grottaglie organises the **33rd Contemporary Ceramics Competition “Mediterraneo”**. The Competition aims to promote artistic expression mediated through ceramics and characterised by innovation and contemporaneity.

- Art. 1 Participation in the **33rd edition of the Contemporary Ceramics Competition “Mediterraneo”** is open to individual artists or artist collectives and is free of charge.
The exhibition of the selected works will be held in Grottaglie from 4 July to 18 October 2026.
- Art. 2 The works must be produced predominantly in ceramic materials. Any ceramic technique is permitted, with no thematic constraints.
- Art. 3 Each artist may submit a maximum of two works. Each work or installation must not exceed a volume of 2 cubic metres.
Works submitted outside the Competition will not be admitted.
- Art. 4 Artists are required to declare that the submitted works are their property, have been created within the last three years – or are to be created within the time limits established by the Competition – and have not been submitted to other competitions.
- Art. 5 In the absence of the requirements set out in Article 4, the Organising Secretariat reserves the right to exclude the work from the exhibition.
- Art. 6 In the case of artist collectives, only one name shall be indicated on the application form as the representative.
- Art. 7 The application form must be completed in full and accompanied by:
 - at least **three images for each submitted work**; the images must be professionally produced on a neutral background and taken from different angles in order to allow a clear overall view and a precise reading of the three-dimensional qualities of the work; images must be in *.TIF or *.JPG format and exceed 5 MB in size (300 dpi, base 20 cm);
 - a **biographical note** written in the third person (maximum 700 characters, spaces included).

Applicants may optionally attach additional material that may enhance the presentation of the work(s) and their artistic career, such as portfolios, publications, etc.

The completed application form and all attachments must be sent by email or via the free service wetransfer.com to the address mediterraneo@comune.grottaglie.ta.it **by 5 May 2026**.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the Organising Secretariat has correctly received all materials submitted for participation in the Competition.

Art. 8 For works exceeding 2 cubic metres, prior contact with the Organising Secretariat is required, at the following telephone numbers: +39 099 5620427 / +39 099 5620251.

Art. 9 The Jury, at its sole and unquestionable discretion, shall decide on the admissibility of the works submitted to the 33rd Contemporary Ceramics Competition "Mediterraneo", on the basis of the photographic images attached to the application form.

The list of selected works will be communicated **by 12 May 2026**.

Art. 10 For the purpose of promoting and disseminating images related to the works submitted to the Competition and the stages of their creation, each artist admitted to the selection may submit high-resolution photographs, videos or other materials by email or via wetransfer.com to mediterraneo@comune.grottaglie.ta.it.

Art. 11 Selected works must arrive duty-free **by 28 June 2026**.

Art. 12 The exhibition will be curated by an expert in the field of contemporary ceramics.

Art. 13 The Jury responsible for selecting the works and awarding the **1st Prize "Mediterraneo"**, the **2nd Prize "Solo Exhibition"** and the **3rd Prize "Artist Residency"** shall be chaired by the Mayor or his/her appointed delegate and composed of experts in the field appointed by resolution of the Municipal Executive.

The Jury responsible for selecting the works and awarding the **4th Prize – Special Section "Large-Scale Work"** shall be chaired by the Mayor or his/her appointed delegate and composed of the Exhibition Curator, the Head of the Culture Department and the Head of the Public Works Department.

Art. 14 The Jury shall assess the competing works at its unquestionable discretion and award the prizes referred to in Article 15. Should the necessary conditions not be met, the Jury may also decide not to award one or more of the prizes provided for in Article 15.

Only for awarded or specially mentioned works shall a formal statement of reasons be issued.

Art. 15 The prizes are as follows:

- 1st Prize "Mediterraneo": **€5,000.00** for the best work of the Contemporary Ceramics Competition, to be included in the contemporary section of the Ceramics Museum;
- 2nd Prize "Solo Exhibition": **€2,000.00** for the second-best work of the Competition. The awardee shall be provided with free exhibition space and organisational support for a solo exhibition to be held during the subsequent edition, as well as publication in the relevant catalogue;
- 3rd Prize "Artist Residency", reserved for artists under 35 years of age, sponsored and funded by the *Banca di Credito Cooperativo San Marzano di San Giuseppe*. The awardee shall receive a cash prize of **€1,000.00** together with accommodation and meals, materials and kiln firings, a designated tutor, and a working space for a minimum period of two weeks and a maximum of three weeks, to be carried out by the subsequent edition;

- 4th Prize – Special Section “Large-Scale Work”, intended as a sculptural or installation element of urban furnishing to be placed within the city. If not yet realised, the artist may submit a scale prototype of the work. The final work must be a sculpture or installation produced in ceramic materials, with the possible integration of other materials, and of such dimensions as to ensure a significant visual and aesthetic impact. The selected work must be delivered by 15 December 2026. The cash prize awarded is **€10,000.00** and shall be paid upon delivery of the completed work. Only upon formal request may an advance payment be granted for the commencement of execution.

All the aforementioned prizes shall become the property of the Municipality of Grottaglie. All prizes are to be understood as gross of any statutory deductions, where applicable.

- Art. 16 Selected artists shall have the option to donate their selected work to the Municipality of Grottaglie, which reserves the right to any future use thereof.
- Art. 17 The exhibition related to the 33rd Contemporary Ceramics Competition “Mediterraneo” shall be accompanied by a printed catalogue produced exclusively by the Municipality of Grottaglie, to which participating artists assign all reproduction rights to the works upon participation. Finalist artists shall be entitled to one copy of the catalogue.
- Art. 18 The Municipal Administration shall insure the works during the exhibition period. It shall not provide insurance coverage for the works during outbound and return transport. Artists may, at their own care and expense, insure the works with an insurance company of their choice against any damage that may occur during transport. Any work arriving at the Competition in conditions that compromise its proper presentation shall not be exhibited.
- Art. 19 Each artist shall be personally responsible, or shall appoint a designated company, for the packaging and collection of the submitted work. The organisation shall retain only wooden crates for end-of-exhibition storage.
- Art. 20 Works that have not been awarded a prize must be collected by the respective owners within ten days of the exhibition’s closure, unless otherwise agreed with the Organising Secretariat.
- Art. 21 Participation in the Competition implies full knowledge of and unconditional acceptance of these Regulations, consisting of 21 articles.

For further information, please contact:

Tel. +39 099 5620427 / +39 099 5620251

Email: mediterraneo@comune.grottaglie.ta.it