

September 2025

ceramic brussels

ceramic brussels announces the 10 laureates of the art prize 2026

The fair is pleased to unveil the 10 laureates of the 3rd edition of the ceramic brussels art prize 2026, selected from nearly 300 applications received from across Europe.

Launched at the inaugural edition of the fair in January 2024, the ceramic brussels art prize aims to highlight the vitality and diversity of contemporary ceramic practices and to support the emerging contemporary artists. The call for applications is open to art students and/or artists living in Europe, not (yet) represented by a gallery, and with less than 10 years of practice and research in the field of ceramics.

The 2026 laureates are:

- [Lorie Ballage](#) (FR, 1994)
- [Uriel Caspi](#) (IL, 1994)
- [Danny Cremers](#) (NL, 1984)
- [Kira Fröse](#) (DE, 1992)
- [Ninon Hivert](#) (FR, 1995)
- [Santiago Insignares](#) (US, 1986)
- [Faye Papargyropoulou](#) (GR, 1974)
- [Marie Pic](#) (FR, 1996)
- [Angelika Stefaniak](#) (PL, 1997)
- [Walter Yu](#) (CN, 1989)

The jury, made up of renowned professionals, selected the ten laureates.

- **Jean-Marc Dimanche (FR)**
Artistic advisor, General Commissioner of the biennial De Mains De Maitres Luxembourg, Co-director of ceramic brussels
- **Wendy Gers (FR/ZA)**
Curator of modern and contemporary art at the Princessehof National Museum of Ceramics and Senior Researcher at Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Groningen, Netherlands
- **Jean-Charles Hameau (FR)**
Director of the Adrien Dubouché National Museum, Deputy Director for National Collections, Sèvres & Mobilier National
- **Lionel Jadot (BE)**
Interior architect, artist, designer, filmmaker and adventurer
- **Maral Kekejian (ES)**
EUROPALIA ESPAÑA Artistic Director

For Jean-Marc Dimanche, co-director of ceramic brussels, “this line-up promises to be outstanding for the 3rd edition of our initiative. It allows us to grasp the tremendous diversity of artistic approaches of the emerging European scene. Through the group exhibition of their works, a unique journey awaits, showcasing the variety of expertises and the incredible creative energy of today’s talents.”

GROUP SHOW, JURYPRIJS EN AWARDS

The laureates will benefit from a group exhibition, various awards as well as wide media coverage with the support of the fair’s partners.

1° Group show – January 2026: a selection of works by the 10 laureates will be presented in a group show during ceramic brussels – from 21 to 25 January 2026, curated by Jean-Marc Dimanche ceramic . An exhibition accessible to all for free.. The artists will also benefit from wide media coverage and logistical support.

On this occasion, MAD Brussels (Centre for Fashion & Design), Action et Service (A+S) and ceramic brussels will join forces to launch a call for applications for a Brussels-based designer or studio to imagine a new scenography that highlights the winners’ works with sensitivity and clarity, while offering an innovative interpretation resonating with the spirit of the prize. The selected designer will be announced at the beginning of October.

2° Awards – ceramic brussels will reveal in October 2025 the awards to be granted to the 2026 laureates in collaboration with a series of partner institutions committed to supporting and promoting the up-and-coming scene.

Among the awards: a solo show during the fair in 2027, international residency programmes, solo and/or group exhibitions, as well as the publication of a monograph, in collaboration with the French Embassy in Belgium.

3° Jury Prize – each year, the jury awards a special prize, giving one of the winning artists the opportunity to hold a solo exhibition at the following edition of the fair. This year, the artist Léonore Chastagner, winner of the 2025 jury prize, will be presented among the exhibitors at ceramic brussels in January 2026.

The awards and jury prize will be announced during a ceremony at the public opening of the fair, on Thursday 22 January 2026.

ceramic brussels

The first international contemporary art fair dedicated to ceramics – Tour & Taxis, Brussels – will hold its 3rd consecutive edition with the support of Puilaetco, a Quinted Private Bank, main partner of ceramic brussels. The programme promises to be exceptional, with a special focus on Spain as part of EUROPALIA ESPAÑA, over 70 exhibitors and a rich programme of activities (talks, guided tours, reception, etc.).

- **21 January 2026** - VIP & media preview
By invitation only
- **22 to 25 January 2026** – Public days
Thursday – Saturday 10:00 – 19:00 – entry: €20
Sunday 10:00 – 18:00 – entry: €20

Detailed presentation of the artists

Lorie Ballage (FR, 1994)

Lorie Ballage holds an MFA from the Bergen Academy of Fine Arts and has exhibited widely across Europe, including solo shows at Pragovka Gallery (Prague, CZ), Norsk Billedhoggerforening (Oslo, NO), The Wrong House (Kortrijk, BE), and Buskerud Kunstsenter (Drammen, NO). Her work lies at the intersection of ceramic sculpture and immersive installation. She explores water both as material and metaphor, combining hand-built ceramics with recycled materials, sound, and scenographic storytelling, creating environments that blur the line between the familiar and the uncanny. Lorie Ballage seeks to reveal the poetic and political potential of failure, absurdity, and the unused, making ceramics not only a material for making but also a tool for critical questioning.

Uriel Caspi (IL, 1994)

Uriel Caspi obtained a BFA in ceramics at the Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem, followed by an MFA at Alfred University, New York. Since completing his studies, he has exhibited in museums, galleries, and art fairs in the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Israel, Taiwan, and Japan. He has worked internationally as a researcher and artist-in-residence, notably at the Archie Bray Foundation (Montana), Yingge Ceramics Museum (Taiwan), EKWC (Netherlands), Cercco-HEAD Geneva (Switzerland), Höchster Porzellan Manufaktur (Germany), and Northern Clay Center (Minnesota), among others. His awards include the Hecht Award for Emerging Artist (2019), the Artist Grant (2023), and the McKnight Fellowship (2024).

Danny Cremers (NL, 1984)

Danny Cremers works with hand-built porcelain. Trained in fashion design at Central Saint Martins, he reinterprets classical forms through subtle imbalances and imperfections. His vases embody a quiet tension between freedom and control, with textured surfaces and loosely constructed forms. Drawn to the energy of sketching – open, intuitive, unconcerned with finality – he seeks to capture that same immediacy in each finished piece.

Kira Fröse (DE, 1992)

Kira Fröse is a visual artist specialising in sculptures and installations made from glass, ceramics, plaster, and found objects. She obtained a bachelor's degree in fine arts (sculpture) in 2017 from the AKI ArtEZ Academy in Enschede, the Netherlands. From 2018 to 2022, she lived and worked as an artist in Rotterdam (Netherlands). Alongside her own practice, she also assisted other artists in their studios, including Anne Wenzel, Maaïke Kramer, and Stephan Marienfeld. Her works are part of several Dutch art collections, notably those of Museum LAM (Lisse), Museum Jan Cunen (Oss), and Stichting Kunst & Historisch Bezit A.S.R. & Aegon.

Ninon Hivert (FR, 1995)

Ninon graduated from the École Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Montpellier in 2017 and from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2021. She has taken part in numerous solo and group exhibitions and has undertaken several research and creation residencies. "Like an archaeologist, Ninon Hivert grasps the anonymous, captures the banal, gathers the urban. Her ceramics are imprints, visual translations of familiar and generic forms: clothing, accessories, everyday objects, always close to the body. She uses clay for its mimetic potential, reshaping reality by remaking and repeating it, in timeframes similar to those of painting and photography, where revelation follows a moment of drying and setting. Her practice is one of transcription, in series, but resolutely manual this time: from one object to another, from one material to another, from touch to eye, from memory to gesture. The mimicry lies not so much in the definitive appearance as in the process of making that she lets emerge." – Andréanne Béguin

Santiago Insignares (US, 1986)

Santiago Insignares-Martínez began his artistic journey in Bogotá, before moving to Rome and then San Francisco. Ceramics became his main focus after settling in Germany, where he studied under Professor Isa Melsheimer at the Muthesius Kunsthochschule. This period led to institutional exhibitions as well as participation in the 12th Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale in 2024. Santiago draws inspiration from both ancient and modern ruins to create sculptures offering a critical reflection on systems in crisis. Through playful appropriations and reconstructions, he assembles colourful ceramic structures that explore the relationship between architecture and identity, while evoking the nostalgia of childhood building games and the journey towards adulthood.

Faye Papargyropoulou (GR, 1974)

Based in Athens, Faye Papargyropoulou is a ceramic artist and designer. In 1992, she began studies in art and design, thanks to a scholarship in industrial design. After twenty years working as a creative director in leading advertising agencies, she founded her own firm, ABOUT: CREATIVE AGENCY. In 2020, she took a new step in her creative journey by opening her ceramics studio, CERAMIC 47. Based in Athens, this personal space of artistic expression enables her to create unique pieces that highlight the beauty of imperfection and question traditional notions of form and functionality. Through her work, she combines past and present, reflecting a deep appreciation for art, nature, and contemporary design.

Marie Pic (FR, 1996)

Marie Pic graduated with a DNSEP in art with a ceramics specialisation from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Limoges in 2021. A resident at the CAP Saint-Fons workshops since 2024, she explores notions of passage and threshold through sculptural forms combining architecture and the vegetal world. Doors and gateways in bas-relief, inspired by Art Nouveau or 17th-century jewellery, merge formal rigour with organic motifs, where ornament becomes structure.

Angelika Stefaniak (PL, 1997)

Angelika Stefaniak is a visual artist born in 1997 in Jawor, Poland. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław with a master's degree in sculpture (2024). Her practice combines ceramics and textiles, rooted in an intuitive process, childlike perception, and dreamlike distortion. Drawing inspiration from psychology, anthropology, and biomorphism, she seeks beauty in the grotesque, creating sensitive and tactile forms that oscillate between sculpture and object. Winner of the OP_YOUNG 2024 programme and recipient of a grant from the Polish Ministry of Culture, she has exhibited her works at OP ENHEIM, Galeria Miejska in Wrocław, Apteka Sztuki in Warsaw, as well as at international events in Łódź and Olomouc.

Walter Yu (CN, 1989)

Born in China and trained in Beijing and Berlin, Walter Yu studied German literature at the Beijing Foreign Studies University before completing his Meisterschüler degree at the Universität der Künste Berlin. His work has been exhibited across China and Europe and has received several awards. Yu explores the poetic intersection between classical East Asian aesthetics and contemporary visual storytelling. With a background in painting, he expands his practice into ceramics and sculpture, creating forms that resonate with both scroll painting and architectural space. His constantly evolving glazing techniques aim to establish a dialogue between clay and surface, between the tactile and the pictorial, evoking a painterly sensitivity that challenges the boundaries between media.

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