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# Future Lights General Information

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International Competition of  
Ceramics 2015

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Porzellanikon®  
Staatliches Museum für Porzellan, Hohenberg a. d. Eger / Selb

British  
Ceramics  
Biennial



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# Future lights International Competition of Ceramics

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## Introduction

The Future Lights competition is outstanding in its character. We aim to provide young people with an opportunity to document their aptitude and creativity by giving them a platform for interdisciplinary exchange with representatives from science disciplines like technicians, material researchers, institutes and technical universities, where they can get additional input for the new developments in ceramics engineering, and can discover new materials for their creative ideas. They can also join networks and develop connections with exponents of the European Ceramics industry, and explore the new tendencies and trends of ceramics in lifestyle.

## Theme 2015: International cultural influences in ceramics

It is a little known fact that, the first ceramic arts were developed in Mesopotamia 5500 years before Christ, and we see the ancient Greek style in ceramics adapted by the Romans in antiquity. Throughout History there has been a cross continental interchange where artists, craftpersons and designers have taken inspiration from different cultures. We can see how learning from others has been important to the development of the industry, for example Chinese porcelain ware was adapted in shape and decoration by European people, and of course, today it is very often the same in reverse. Cultural exchange has ever been an important tradition in ceramics, and it will continue to be in both directions: imparting and obtaining Creativity is based on talent, but talent alone will not produce anything remarkable, if the knowledge of the material is missing. Furthermore there is the second fundamental issue of inspiration. For thousands of years human beings have learned from one another – not only thier neighbours close at hand, but visitors who came from far away. Other nations and cultures from different continents have given impulses to Europe by their special way of designing objects of use; this can also be seen in architecture that frequently follows foreign models and conforms to broader cultural ideals. Talking about crafts and design in ceramics means reflecting on the multicultural developments in design and habit in the past and present.

The theme of this year's Future Lights competition is following the theme of multicultural influences and the exchange and transfer of knowledge. It addresses on one hand those who are dealing with research on historic developments in ceramics art and design in an outstanding way. On the other hand it focuses on those creative people whose work is inspired

by other cultures. It is intended to address young players in ceramics who build new bridges between European and foreign influences in their work. It might be the adaption of shapes and decoration as well an innovative way of reflecting modern multicultural lifestyles.

## Participation

The International Competition of Ceramics, Future lights, is especially designed for today's young professionals and researchers. It provides an appropriate platform for their further career, and gives them a chance to put into practise the knowledge gained, as well as move in the creative direction they originally studied for. Applications from groups are not accepted.

Applicants can be of any nationality as long as they were recently studying at a European institution. There is no formal age limit but the applicants must not have been outside of education for more than 2 years, or are those at the formative stage of their career. Target groups are post-graduate level and above such as Start-ups and professionals starting their career in the field of either ceramics, art-history or other scholars, as well as craftspersons and designers.

The competition will promote multidisciplinary working but it is not necessary that applicants have worked in this way already to qualify.

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There will be three categories people can apply:

- Art Historians (This could be historians, classicists, social historians, philosophers etc.)
- Craftspersons (This could be engineers, ceramicists, woodworkers, glassmakers etc.)
- Designers (this could be 3D design, graphics, comic book, animators, surface pattern, fine art etc.)

The Participation is free. The Jury is allowed to see the curricula of the participants during the selection process for the final step of the competition. The winners are not allowed to take part in the next competition.

## Procedures

The specified theme for this competition is "International Cultural Influences in Ceramics". Entries can either demonstrate previous work that fits this theme or new solutions/ideas generated and presented in response. To clarify, submissions can be of work already produced OR project proposals.

Applications are to be made in English. Others will be rejected.

## Acceptance

“Future Lights” wants to support the best. Applications will be appraised by the “Ceramics and its dimensions” working group, the specialists from the European Ceramics Society (ECerS), and the federation of European national ceramic societies.

Following the call for proposals this committee selects the “Future Lights”, which are invited to present their theses or their creative ideas in poster presentations/exhibitions at one of the big international ceramics conferences of ECerS, at the ICC, the IAC-congress and the British Ceramics Biennial (BCB).

In addition to the “Future Lights” call there are other opportunities for learning, research, and showcasing work and ideas in other strands of the Creative Europe “Ceramics and its Dimensions” 4 year programme. This takes the form of lectures on the history of ceramics, other contests, and opportunities to submit work to the future 3D innovation programme strand.

The competition is divided in three stages:

### Stage 1:

The Jury will select 18 individuals up to six from each category.

### Stage 2:

The selected 18 individuals win the opportunity for their designs or proposals to be showcased. They will be invited to the next British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke-on-Trent at the end of October 2015. There they will present their entries and their motivation behind.

Art-/Historians and Craftspersons as well as Designers will be present either by poster presentations or exhibitions at the BCB. The **Art-/Historians** will be asked to present their theses delivering a 30 minutes lecture referring to the annual theme of the competition and a follow up Q & A session. The **Craftspersons and Designers** are invited to present their creative ideas to the jury by 3D-works referring to the theme “International cultural influences in ceramics”, which can be prototypes as well as originals in ceramics. Together with the members of the jury this will be done in a public discussion and a question and answers part.

From this, 6 individuals will be chosen for the 3rd stage. The admission to stage 3 of the competition will be communicated to the winners of stage 2 during the BCB immediately after the decision of the jury. The winners must confirm the acceptance of the award one day before the public introduction as the winner of the “future lights in ceramics award” in the awarding ceremony.

### Stage 3:

The contributions of the art-/historians will be published on the Web-site of the project and if finally realized in the “future lights hall” of the web based virtual “House of Ceramics”. The works of artists and designers having been selected by the jury in stage 2 will be shown at the exhibition during its running time. Others may not substitute these works, except there is a written agreement between the artist/designer and the jury. If ignored, the penalty is the exclusion from the competition. Pieces must arrive, CARRIAGE FREE, at the prior destination where the exhibition takes place. Those exhibits will become part of the museum collection with no extra charge.

The Art-/historians selected may choose between the opportunity to receive a four weeks residency at one of the “Ceramics and its dimensions” partner museums for their own studies or to take part in an especially designed trans disciplinary summer school provided by the Staffordshire University.

The selected craftspersons/designers win the opportunity to take part in a trans disciplinary workshop at the Staffordshire University in Stoke-on-Trent, England to work on their designs or proposals to be showcased in the follow up exhibition or to develop new.

Following the workshop the exhibition of the works arising from the workshop will be presented during the selection procedure for the next year’s Future Lights at the 6th International Congress on Ceramics held in Dresden in August 2016. Besides, the works will be part of the *Ceramics and its dimensions* travelling exhibition *Shaping the Future* from 2016 to 2018.

## Appendix

### Use of personal information

All personal information submitted by the competitor to the Porzellanikon – Staatliches Museum für Porzellan administration in order to carry out the competition procedures will be used to select the candidates and for the subsequent entry to the final stage. Information will be used and handled, both traditionally and by computer, respecting the “Code regarding the protection of personal information” by the Porzellanikon – Staatliches Museum für Porzellan.

As announced by the content of the Competition Regulations it is clear that some information (for example the particulars) are indispensable in order to enter the competition. Other information is useful for the simplification of procedures. The competitors, who supply their data, are acknowledged according to German national law. Furthermore in order to exercise the inherent rights and the preservation of the personal information also established under German national law, the competitor can contact the director of the Porzellanikon – Staatliches Museum für Porzellan at the address indicated above.

### Catalogue

The scientific papers of the art-/historians and the selected works of the craftspersons and designers will be published in an e-book and finally a catalogue in printed version. These will be done exclusively in the responsibility of the jury and the partners of the “Ceramics and its Dimensions” project.

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### Exhibitions

The works submitted (stage 1) will be presented in an exhibition/poster presentation. The poster presentation and the exhibition at the BCB are part of the application of the candidates. The candidates will be provided with a space for one poster (in the size 840 x 1189 cm) and the craftsmen and designers with a table (in the size 1 m x 1 m) In case of complex works, submitters are requested to send detailed information about the setting-up straight to the person in charge.

The exhibition of the 3D-items following the summer workshop (after stage 2) will be arranged exclusively by the persons in charge of the “Future Lights”-project the arrangements and follows the design decided by the responsible authority.



## Insurance

Insurance has to be covered by the applicants themselves. This must include all risks of damages during transport and stay while on display as part of the exhibition. The insurance should specifically provide for waiving rights with respect to the authorities in charge at the different places, which will not be held responsible for any damages done to the works during transport or the entire duration of the events. If uninsured the submitters must waive their rights with respect to the authorities mentioned above. In case a work does not arrive in perfect condition it will be kept unrestored and will not be displayed.

## Forwarding the works

The reliability standards for a good preservation of the works for their packaging (wooden boxes exposed to fumigation, equipped with packing material, are heartily recommended), insurance and transfer during the forwarding wall to wall are obligatory. It is also obligatory for the applicants to follow the rules concerning the custom procedures for extra-CEE works. In this case it is required to follow the provisions of the “Future-Lights of Ceramics” competition official forwarder. The works forwarded by post, or outside the requested modalities, will be rejected. All the expenses for the forwarding are carriage forward.

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## Return of works

Before starting the procedure of returning of the works, the forwarder will inform all participants about the foreseen expenses. In case that works are to be returned, for those having been submitted from inside the EU the costs will be provided for packing and transport, delivery costs have to be paid by the recipient (carriage forward), and for works from other countries, the packing, customs formalities under EU law and transport costs up to the border of the country where they were displayed before, on the return journey. Beyond this countries border all the expenses will be carriage forward.

Communication of the desire to donate works can be done only after admission to the final stage of the Competition and communicated to the person in charge of the project. This person is free to decide to accept the donation or not. Both in the case of donation and renounce to the restitution of the works, the authority in charge will make the arrangements deemed most appropriate.

## Acceptance

“Future Lights” wants to support the best. Applications will be appraised by the “Ceramics and its dimensions” working group, the specialists from the European Ceramics Society (ECerS), and the federation of European national ceramic societies.

Costs for invited stay including flight/travelling up to 300,00 € each, overnight stay and accommodation as offered by the “Ceramics and its Dimensions” working group will be covered by the EU-Programme “Creative Europe” and the “JECS – Trust”. The “JECS – Trust” has been set up to support such activities of inspiration and exchange. If the collaborations are deemed successful, it is intended that the “Future Lights” will continue by way of endorsement of the ceramic societies in Europe, the universities and the museums.

## **Publishing-Rights**

The “Future Lights of Ceramics” philosophy is supporting the best in a sustainable way. Promoting their personality, their efforts and their works is an important part of this. For this purpose the authors of the works taking part in the competition grant the rights of publishing their names, their CV, their motivation and their works submitted to the project leader in the way these are submitted for the different stages and their further changes including new works of the winners done during the summer-academy or residency. The publishing grant covers the publishing rights and the rights of reproduction as decided by those who are responsible for the project.

This includes the rights for publishing these works in photography, film, TV-formats and any other digital or analogue form.

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## **All Rights**

All applicants are considered to have agreed to grant the right to exhibit the works of the selected individuals and to publish their photographs for publicity or in catalogues. We also reserve the right to make copies of the photographs for publicity for exhibitions specifically related to the Ceramics and its Dimensions programme.

## **Co-operators**

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, IE,  
British Ceramics Biennial (BCB),  
Staffordshire University Stoke-on-Trent, UK

## **Organisation**

Porzellanikon – Staatliches Museum für Porzellan in Hohenberg a. d. Eger / Selb, Germany