



INTERNATIONAL CERAMICS COMPETITION

CAROUGE 2026

THE MOVEMENT

RULES

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Background to the competition

Since 1987, the City of Carouge (Geneva) has organised a contemporary ceramics competition every two years, focusing on the creation of works based on a set theme. The work must be original, created specifically for the competition and must not be exhibited before 19 September 2026, the date of the start of the exhibition. The pieces are judged anonymously.

2. Theme of the competition

The Movement

Clay has been used as a material since prehistoric times and, despite the socio-cultural changes that have taken place over the centuries, ceramics have been able to reinvent themselves by continually pushing the boundaries of the material and making it possible to create not only utilitarian objects but also artistic sculptures.

This constant change may be reflected in the 2026 theme of the International Ceramics Competition, namely movement.

The very process of creating a ceramic piece involves movement, since the clay is folded, rolled, transformed or even turned. This theme will allow Artists to freeze movement in the material. The reflection of light on the surface by certain glazes or finishes, the texture or even the shape may evoke movement. The subject may be interpreted in both a figurative and a conceptual sense, promising diverse and varied artistic proposals.

3. Organiser

This competition is organised by the City of Carouge.

All correspondence relating to the competition should be sent by email to the following address:

cic@carouge.ch

4. Objective

The international ceramics competition aims to promote contemporary ceramics and encourage creativity.

5. Exhibition

The City of Carouge will organise an exhibition presenting to the public the works selected during the first round of the competition and will publish a catalogue bringing them together.

This exhibition will also be an opportunity to award the prizes selected by the jury during the second round of the competition from among the selected works. During the exhibition, workshops will be organised for pupils from schools in Carouge. The participants in the workshops will be asked to award a prize. In addition, there will also be a public prize.

The exhibition is included in the *Parcours Céramique Carougeois* programme (www.parcoursceramiquecarougeois.ch).

6. Prizes

6.1 The jury will award the following prizes in this competition:

- the City of Carouge Prize, with a cash prize of CHF 10,000.00;
- the Prize supported by the Bruckner Foundation for the promotion of ceramics, in the amount of CHF 2,000.00;
- the Prize supported by swissceramics, Swiss Ceramics Association, in the amount of CHF 1,000.00.

In addition, two prizes will be awarded during the exhibition:

- the Prize of the Audience, sponsored by the Carouge Museum, worth CHF 800.00;
- the Schools Prize, sponsored by the Carouge Museum, worth CHF 500.00.

6.2 The jury may freely decide not to award one or both prizes provided for in these rules.

6.3 Participation in this competition (1st and 2nd rounds) does not give rise to any remuneration other than that resulting from the five prizes mentioned above.

6.4 The work awarded a prize by the City of Carouge automatically becomes the property of the Carouge Museum collections.

COMPETITION PROCEDURE

7. Requirements relating to the works

7.1 There are no restrictions on the interpretation of the competition theme (see Art. 2).

Candidates may, for example, propose a design object, a functional object or a decorative, sculptural and/or conceptual work.

There are also no restrictions on form, decoration and technique. However, the work must be made predominantly of ceramic.

The work must be original, created especially for the competition and must not have been exhibited before 19 September 2026, the date of the start of the exhibition.

7.2 Due to the architectural nature of the Carouge Museum, certain constraints must be applied. The maximum dimensions are:

- the sum of the length + 2 heights + 2 widths must not exceed 220cm:

$l + (2 \times h) + (2 \times \text{width}) \leq 220$

- with a maximum length of 100cm.
- with a maximum weight of 15 kilos.

7.3 Works that do not meet these requirements will be excluded from the competition.

8. Participation

8.1 The City of Carouge International Ceramics Competition is open to all creators who meet the following conditions:

- Artists must be over 16 years of age;
- each candidate may only submit one application containing one work;
- Artists must be able to prove that they are professionally involved in the arts (diploma, training, experience, etc.);
- the candidate must be the author of the work presented;
- in order to respect the anonymity of the judging during the first selection round, the piece must not be visibly signed.

8.2 Collaboration between several Artists is permitted. However, this must be clearly indicated on the registration form, which will bear the names of all those participating in the production. Each person must fill in a registration form.

8.3 The languages accepted for all correspondence relating to the competition are French, English, Italian and German.

8.4 Candidates and/or works that do not fulfil the above conditions will be excluded from the competition.

9. Composition of the registration file

9.1 Registration is done by filling out an online form that includes the following information:

- **The contact details** of the artist;
- **a biography** of 2,000 characters maximum, including spaces. It should mention the artist's background and references as well as describe his or her artistic work in general.
- **information about the proposed work** (title, techniques, dimensions, etc.);

- **a statement of intent** of no more than 800 characters including spaces. This should allow the artist to develop its concept and explain the relationship between the proposed work and the theme of the competition;
- **three or four good quality** digital photographs (300 dpi, .jpg format), in colour, showing the work from three or four different angles. The artist's identification should not be visible (e.g. signature). The total size of the attached images is limited to **a maximum of 16 MB**. Good quality photographs are important: the selection of works in the first round is based on these photographs. In addition, these photographs may be shown in the exhibition.

9.2 The online form is accessible from the website of the City of Carouge:

www.carouge.ch/cic

The deadline for online registration is **31 December 2025 at 11:59 p.m. (local time)**

Registrations can only be made using the online form.

9.3 Registrations will not be considered if the application file is incomplete or arrives after the deadline.

9.4 The first round of the jury is based on the application file: Artists who send a work directly will be automatically excluded from the competition and the work will be returned to them at their own expense.

10. Jury

A selection jury, made up of a representative of the City of Carouge and expert personalities from the world of ceramics, will judge the applications submitted.

This panel will select the works to be exhibited (1st round of the competition) and award the City of Carouge Prize as well as the one sponsored by the Bruckner Foundation and the one sponsored by Swissceramics (2nd round of the competition).

11. Selection

11.1 First round

The first round will be based exclusively on an examination of the three or four photographs and the artist's statement.

The assessment criteria are:

- suitability to the theme, relevance of the work and/or concept;
- formal and/or aesthetic quality;
- originality of the work, creativity;
- quality of the technical realisation.

The City of Carouge would like to remind you that both functional and non-functional works are accepted.

Candidates will be notified in writing of the jury's decision during April 2026, at the end of the first round.

Works must **only be sent between 1st and 15 June 2026 at the latest (as evidenced by the postmark). The address to send them to will be communicated by email.** No works other than those submitted in the first round may be sent. The work must correspond in every respect to the object visible in the photographs.

11.2 Second round

The jury will examine the works selected in the 1st round and which have been duly received by the City of Carouge. It will award the City of Carouge Prize and the two other prizes mentioned below (see Art. 6). The Audience and School prizes will be awarded in November 2026 after the votes have been counted.

The evaluation criteria are those listed in Art. 11.1 of these rules.

The work must be sent within the deadline set in Art. 11.1 of these rules and must be actually received by the City of Carouge to participate in the 2nd round.

The jury's decisions are final and do not have to be justified.

In the event of non-compliance with the competition rules, the City of Carouge may decide to exhibit the work, but it will not be presented to the jury and will therefore be excluded from the second round of the competition.

12. Exhibition arrangements

12.1 The pieces selected during the 1st round will be exhibited at the Carouge Museum (Switzerland) from 19 September to 29 November 2026.

The City of Carouge reserves the right to unilaterally modify the dates and/or location of the aforementioned exhibition. In this case, it will inform the concerned Artists.

12.2 The installation of the works, the scenography and the communication media are exclusively provided by the Carouge Museum and are the sole responsibility of the organising committee.

An exhibition catalogue will be published on this occasion. The Artists whose work is in the catalogue will receive 2 copies.

12.3 The City of Carouge reserves the right not to exhibit some of the pre-selected works.

12.4 The winners will be announced on the day of the opening, 19 September 2026. The Audience and School prizes will be announced in November 2026.

COPYRIGHT, TRANSPORT AND INSURANCE OF THE WORKS

13. Copyright

13.1 Each artist participating in the competition, whether selected or not, assigns to the City of Carouge his or her copyright on the images of the work presented. The photographs and the registration file become the property of the City of Carouge.

13.2 The City of Carouge reserves the right to photograph the works for the purposes of promoting the exhibition, documenting the City's archives, producing postcards, publications on the Internet, on social networks or for any other purpose. As the catalogue will be published in French, the City also reserves the right to rewrite and translate the texts provided by the Artists.

13.3 The transfer of reproduction and performance rights is free of charge.

14. Transport of the works

All costs related to return transport, taxes or customs duties are to be borne by the artist. Beware, these fees can be expensive. For more information, please send an e-mail to cic@carouge.ch.

All fees must be paid before parcels are dispatched.

14.1 Transport conditions

Artists selected in the first-round commit to the following conditions:

- works must arrive at the address indicated in the e-mail informing them of their selection and participation in the exhibition, between June 1 and 15, 2026 at the latest (see Art. 11.1);
- works must be packaged and protected. All packaging, shipping, customs duties and taxes are the responsibility of the artist, both on the outward and return journeys. Please note that the weight and dimensions of the object have a major impact on the costs;
- works arriving broken will automatically be excluded from the competition;
- for works from abroad, no work can be accepted **without a copy of the export/import forms.**

An e-mail explaining all shipping and delivery procedures will be sent to Artists upon notification of their selection.

The City of Carouge cannot under any circumstances be held responsible for damage caused during transport. Artists are strongly advised to take out transport insurance for their works.

At the end of the exhibition, the works are returned to the Artists under the following conditions:

- crates and protections used for outward transport are reused for return transport.

15. Insurance of works

15.1 The City of Carouge accepts no responsibility for damage caused during transport of the works, either to or from the site. It is therefore the responsibility of Artists to insure and properly pack their works during transport.

15.2 Works will be insured by the City of Carouge from the time they are received, for the duration of the exhibition and until they are returned.

FINAL PROVISIONS

16. Acceptance of the rules

16.1 By sending the online registration form, Artists accept all the conditions of these rules.

16.2 Artists undertake, among other things, to guarantee the accuracy of the information provided and to respect the requirements of the competition (conditions of participation, respect of the deadline set for each stage of the competition, etc.).

16.3 By registering, Artists confirm that the work submitted is their property and that it was created specifically for this competition. The jury may disqualify a work that does not meet the conditions imposed, as well as withdraw and reclaim a prize already awarded.

16.4 By registering, Artists confirm that no third-party rights (in particular personality rights or copyright) are infringed by the use that will be made of the images or works in the publications of the City of Carouge. The Artists undertake to immediately challenge any claims by third parties and to fully release the City of Carouge from any liability it may incur as a result.

17. Change of circumstances

The City of Carouge reserves the right to modify these regulations, or even to postpone or cancel the competition or exhibition if circumstances so warrant.

18. Applicable law and jurisdiction

These regulations are subject to Swiss law.

In the event of a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of these regulations, the courts of the canton of Geneva (Switzerland) shall have sole jurisdiction.

APPENDICES

Calendar

July 2025:

Launch of the City of Carouge International Ceramics Competition

31 December 2025:

Deadline for sending complete application files

Mid- March 2026:

First jury round: selection based on application files

Mid-April 2026:

Sending of replies to Artists (priority is given to selected Artists)

1st June-15 June 2026:

Reception of pieces selected during the first jury round

Mid-July 2026:

Second jury round: awarding of prizes

19 September 2026:

Inauguration of the exhibition and announcement of the jury prizes

Mid-November 2026:

Audience and School awards revealed

29 November 2026:

End of the exhibition.