Rules of the International Competition of the 18th Aveiro International Artistic Ceramics Biennale

Objectives:

The 18th Aveiro International Artistic Ceramics Biennale will take place from 16 October 2027 to 16 January 2028. The Biennale aims to contribute to the production of contemporary artistic ceramics by encouraging experimentation and creativity. It seeks to act as a driving force for new trends in ceramics while contributing to education and cultural development.

As a space for dialogue and sharing, it disseminates artistic movements and concepts, opening up new paths in the field of contemporary artistic ceramics, promoting aesthetic renewal and introducing new materials and techniques.

Rules:

1) Artists, both Portuguese and international, may participate in this Biennale provided that they accept all the provisions set out in these rules.

2) Each artist may submit a maximum of two works, produced no more than three years prior to submission, which will be assessed by the Biennale Jury. Works may be individual or collaborative.

3) Members of the Jury may not submit works to the competition.

4) Applicants must submit the following documents digitally:

a) A fully completed application form;

b) Curriculum Vitae, in PDF format;

c) A biographical note of no more than 20 lines, in editable Word format;

d) At least two photographs of each work, taken from different perspectives, in digital JPEG format. The photographs must be properly labelled and indicate the intended orientation of the work;

e) A descriptive statement for each proposed work, explaining the creative concept and approach. It may also include the technical characteristics and the intended positioning of the works for exhibition purposes. This document must be submitted in editable Word format.

5) Applications may be submitted in Portuguese or English.

6) The material referred to in section 4 must be submitted digitally to the secretariat via https://bienalceramicaaveiro.pt/ **between 1 and 11 December 2026**. Receipt of applications will be confirmed by an automatic message. Following validation, the secretariat may contact the artist if further clarification is required. The secretariat is based at Museu de Aveiro / Santa Joana, Avenida de Santa Joana, s/n, 3810-329 Aveiro, Portugal. Telephone: +351 234 423 297; email: bienalceramica@cm-aveiro.pt.

7) The Biennale Jury will carry out an initial assessment and screening of the works based on the material referred to in section 4. The results of this first stage will be communicated to applicants by **12 February 2027**.

8) Selected works must be delivered, from the date of notification referred to in the previous section and no later than **31 May 2027**, to Galeria da Antiga Capitania, Rua de Viana do Castelo, no. 2, 3800-275 Aveiro, Portugal, during public opening hours (Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00–12:30 and 13:30–18:00).

a) Due to the temporary closure of Museu de Aveiro / Santa Joana for ongoing restoration works, the main competition exhibition of the 18th Biennale will exceptionally be held at Galeria da Antiga Capitania. Given the gallery's exhibition space, and in order to ensure the appropriate organisation and presentation of the works, the Jury's selection criteria will place particular emphasis on originality and technical quality, while also taking into account the size of the works in relation to the characteristics of the exhibition space.

9) The Jury reserves the right to refuse works received after the deadline indicated in the previous section.

10) Works must be shipped to the above address with all shipping costs prepaid. Works originating from countries outside the European Union must also cover all costs associated with customs clearance, in accordance with the applicable customs regulations.

11) The organisers are responsible for the works only for the period between receipt and collection, except for works received in poor condition. Any works received in such condition will be photographed immediately and the applicant notified.

12) The Jury reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to reject a selected work if it does not correspond to the description provided in the application or does not meet the assessment criteria for inclusion in the Biennale exhibition and catalogue.

13) Works selected for the exhibition may not be removed before the Biennale closes.

14) The organisers are responsible for insuring the works for the period from their arrival until their return or collection. The insured value considered may not exceed €5,000 per work.

15) The organisers reserve the right to photograph selected works for promotional purposes and for inclusion in the Biennale catalogue, without any obligation to pay copyright fees.

16) Three prizes will be awarded:

1st prize – €13,000.00

2nd prize – €8,000.00

3rd prize – €4,000.00

a) In addition to these prizes, the Jury may award Honourable Mentions.

b) Prizes will not be awarded jointly (ex aequo).

c) The prize-winning works, excluding those receiving Honourable Mentions, will become the property of Aveiro City Council.

d) Any applicable duties and taxes will be deducted from the prize amounts.

17) The Jury's decisions are final and may not be appealed.

18) An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition will be published; it may be in digital format.
19) Exhibited works must be collected between **21 February and 5 April 2028**, during the opening hours of Galeria da Antiga Capitania.

19) Works not collected by 5 April 2028 may, following assessment and consideration of their context, be incorporated into the Municipality of Aveiro's collection, particularly the collection of the future Museum of the Artistic Ceramics Biennale.

20) Any matters not covered by these rules will be decided by the organisers.