

The 14th International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan

Application Guidelines

«The 14th International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan

OPEN CALL for The International Ceramics Competition»

1. Basic Philosophy

This contest is intended to give us the opportunity to reflect upon the traditions associated with ceramics, which is a large and vital activity that has extended over the past 10,000 years. It is of great importance that we renew our knowledge of the spirit and existence of ceramics through a study of its history. Outstanding pottery represents the discovery of beauty in and application of spirit to objects which were originally produced with no particular consideration of these qualities. Even in the simplest of bowls, we can recognize something extraordinary, feel the color, experience a profound tactile sensation; shapes that are neither magnificent nor strongly impressive in themselves can present us with a glimpse of the universe. Excellent ceramics that fit right into desires and lifestyles of people yet suggest innovative ideas hold the vitality that continues to shine timelessly.

Now that we are in the 21st century, we face an age of mass production, mass consumption, new materials, and new technologies. And we question ourselves. In which direction will the strong waves of our times sweep the spirit and existence of ceramics? Will creative powers be lost before the onslaught of technological achievement? Will we come to deny the warm humanity that connects and looks gently over people living everyday lives? We commit ourselves to making the International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan, the site of a glimpse into a future blessed with creativity, backed by the ultimate in technical sophistication, and with the unlimited potential of humanity.

2. Greeting

“The International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan” is the main event of the “International Ceramics Festival Mino, Japan,” which is held with the aim of supporting the growth of the ceramics industry and the enhancement of culture through the global exchange of ceramics design and culture. This is the 14th international ceramics competition since the first one was held in 1986.

Each competition is judged by a panel of distinguished judges from around the world, and entries are received from various countries. In the last competition, we had amazing 3,890 entries from 2,128 applicants coming from 77 countries and areas around the world. The scale and high quality made our ceramics competition truly the representative of the world today.

About 200 excellent works, selected from the competition, will be exhibited at Ceramics Park MINO in Tajimi City, Gifu Prefecture from October to November 2027. We hope to welcome as many guests as possible to view the competition, not only from Japan, but also from all over the world.

Recently, new developments have been required in the ceramics field with new materials, new technologies, and moves towards more borderless in the domain. We look forward to receiving entries that suggest us more unconventional ideas.

International Ceramics Festival Mino, Japan
Executive Committee

Please read this first

By applying for this competition, you agree to all the terms and conditions stated in this Application Guidelines. Please read the information carefully before applying. The information in this Application Guidelines is subject to change due to unavoidable circumstances. In such cases, a notice will be posted on the organizer's website. (<https://www.icfmino.com>)

《Competition Details》

1. Theme

“Potential of Ceramics”

Entries should go beyond traditional concepts, demonstrate imagination and explore the potential of ceramics.

2. Schedule

Details	Time
Application Period	February 2, 2026 – January 29, 2027
First Screening: Online judging (Narrowing down the list.)	February, 2027
Second Screening: Online judging (Selecting works to go on the Final Judging.)	early April, 2027
Result Announcement of Second Screening	mid-late April, 2027
Final Judging: Judging of the actual works (Grand Prix and other awards are determined.)	early August, 2027 See <<Artwork Submission and Return>> for details.
Award Ceremony	October 7 or 8, 2027
Opening Ceremony	October 8, 2027
The 14 th International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan	October 8 – November 7, 2027

3. Entry Categories

(1) Ceramic Arts Category

Ceramic pieces that incorporate creative ideas and techniques

(2) Ceramics Design Category

① Factory Field (Factory products with practical functions)

Company applications (Individuals/groups belonging to that company are also acceptable.)

② Studio Field (Individual studio products with practical functions)

Individual/group applications

4. Application Requirements

① Self-created works mainly made of ceramics

② Works must have been produced on or after February 1, 2024. (after the closing of the previous competition's application period.)

③ Not selected in other public competitions.

④ The size, weight, and shape of the work must not interfere with its transportation or indoor exhibition. The guideline is a floor space of 4 m² or less, a height of 4m or less, and a weight of 100kg or less. (100kg or less per part for an assembled work.)

5. Applicant Qualifications

None. The competition is open to everyone.

6. Number of Application

Each applicant may submit up to three (3) entries in each category.

Not allowed to submit the same work in more than one category.

7. Application Registration Fee

No registration fee is required to apply.

8. Application Period

Monday, February 2, 2026 – Friday, January 29, 2027

*Applications received after **5:00 PM** Japan Standard Time on Friday, January 29, 2027, will not be accepted. Please complete your application registration well in advance, considering the time difference with Japan.

9. Official Language

The competition will be officially conducted in Japanese/English.

10. Screening Process

The screening process will be conducted in the following three stages.

Applicant information will not be disclosed during the judging process. However, age information necessary for the selection of the “Sakazaki Shigeo Ceramics Award,” as described in Section “12. Awards” may be disclosed.

Stage	Method	Purpose
First Screening	Image-based	Judging based on images to narrow down the list of works.
Second Screening	Image-based	Additional judging based on images to select works to go on the Final Judging.
Final Judging	Judging of the actual works	Judging of the actual works to determinate the award-winning works and honorable mentions. All works that proceed to the Final Judging will be exhibited unless they fall under the category of disqualified works.

(*) A work may be excluded from the selection process if it falls into any of the following

“Examples of Disqualified Works.”

【Examples of Disqualified Works】

- ① If the work is not delivered within the acceptance period.
- ② If the received work is damaged when unpacked.
- ③ If the received work is different from the registered image of the work.
- ④ If the organizer judges that the work is not suitable for the exhibition.

11. How to Confirm the Screening Results

The result of First Screening is scheduled to be announced around the end of February 2027, and the result of Second Screening is scheduled to be announced from mid- to late April 2027. Please access the application page and check “My Page” for the results of each stage. Additionally, those who pass Second Screening will be notified separately regarding the results. (See “2. Carry-in of the work” under 《Artwork Submission and Return》.) The announcement date and time will be posted on the website when the time comes. Please note that we cannot respond to inquiries made by phone or other means.

12. Awards

The awards for this competition are as follows.

Awards	Prize Money (JPY)	Ceramic Arts Category	Ceramics Design Category	
			Factory Field	Studio Field
Grand Prix	5,000,000	1 work		
Gold Award	2,000,000	1 work		
Silver Award	1,000,000	1 work	1 work	1 work
Bronze Award	500,000	2 works	1 work	1 work
Special Judge's Award	100,000	5 works	5 works	
Honorable Mentions	—	about 160-180 selected works excluding the above		

* The Grand Prix winner will be invited to attend the award ceremony.

(The round-trip transportation and the accommodation fee will be covered by the organizer.)

* Prize money may be subject to taxation.

* One exhibition catalog (hereinafter referred to as “catalog”) will be presented to each award-winning and selected artists.

< Sakazaki Shigeo Ceramics Award >

In addition to the above awards, in this competition, “Sakazaki Shigeo Ceramics Award” has been awarded since the 9th edition in 2011 for the purpose of producing outstanding young artists.

① Eligibility: Individual applicants who are 40 years old or younger at the time of application deadline.

② Prize Money: 500,000 Japanese yen each

(One work from Ceramic Arts Category and one work from Ceramics Design Category)

*This prize money is provided by "Sakazaki Shigeo Ceramics Industry Succession Fund" established by Tajimi Pottery Wholesalers' Co-operative Association.

● Sakazaki Shigeo (1922-2015)

He is the contributor who made the first competition possible in 1986. He traveled around the world with members of Mino Ceramic Art Association to promote the international ceramics competition held in the Minoyaki production area.

13. Regarding Donations of Grand Prix and Gold Award Winning Works

Please note that the Grand Prix and Gold Award winning works will be donated to Museum of Modern Ceramic Art, Gifu. These works will be carefully preserved as part of the museum's collection together with successive Grand Prix and Gold Award winning works, and will be displayed at the International Ceramics Exhibition Mino retrospective projects or other events.

14. Exhibition and Public Viewing of Award Winning and Selected Works

Award winning and selected works will be exhibited in “the 14th International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan” scheduled to be held in 2027. They will also be available to the public in the catalog and on the organizer's website.

15. Legal Rights

Applicants retain all rights, such as copyright and industrial property rights, over their entry. Therefore, applicants are required to take the procedures for registration of design or others at the time of application if necessary. Also, please be advised that the organizer has the right to exhibit the award-winning and selected works as well as to publish the catalog of them, and right to place them on other printed materials and websites issued or permitted by the organizer.

《Application Registration》

1. How to Apply

Please follow these steps to apply. Applications by post will not be accepted.

(1) Access the application page.

Access the application page from the official website of International Ceramics Festival Mino, Japan.

website address : <https://www.icfmino.com>

QR Cord :



(2) Registration of Applicant Information

- ① Register your e-mail address. Then, you will receive an auto-reply mail from the organizer.
- ② Access Applicant Information Registration Page from the URL provided in the e-mail you received.
- ③ Select “Individual/Group Application” or “Company Application.”
- ④ Enter the name or company name and other necessary information following the application form.
- ⑤ Attach the applicant’s image data according to the following rules.

	Image Data	Data Format	Max. Data Capacity
Individual/Group Application	Headshot	JPEG	4MB
Company Application	Company Logo	PDF	4MB

*Headshots and company logos of award winners and honorable mentions will be printed in the catalog of the event.

(3) Registration of Entries

- ① Once the Applicant Information has been registered, you will proceed to My Page Menu.
- ② Select the category you wish to apply for.
- ③ Fill in the required information such as the title of the work, size, and design concept, etc., according to the application form.
 - * If no text is entered in the Japanese field, the organizer will input by an automatic translation tool.
 - *Design concept should not exceed 800 characters.
- ④ Attach images of the work according to the following rules.

Format	JPEG format only
Capacity	4MB or less
Quantity	Three images, one image taken from the front and two images taken from different angles.
Others	In case your work consists of several pieces, make sure to include the whole work in one image.

*Image data that does not follow the above rules will not be accepted.

- ⑤ To continue registering entries, repeat steps ② through ④ above.
Each applicant may submit up to three works per category.

2. Other Notes

- ① The language to be entered in the application form must be Japanese or English only. Applications entered in other languages will not be accepted.
- ② Applications must be done by Japan Time 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 29, 2027. After that, the application function will be closed. Regardless of the reason, applications will not be accepted after the deadline. Please apply well in advance of time.

Only for those who have passed Second Screening

《Artwork Submission and Return》

1. Schedule After Passing Second Screening

Details	Time
Notification to those who passed the Second Screening.	Middle April – Late April, 2027
Carry-in of the works (overseas)	July 8 – July 12, 2027
Carry-in of the works (domestic)	July 22 – July 28, 2027
Carry-in of the works (by the artist in person)	July 27 & 28, 2027
Final Judging (Judging of actual works)	August 1 – August 2, 2027
Final Judging Results Announcement	Early August, 2027
Returning Works (removed by artists in person /by shipping companies arranged by artists)	November 7 (after the exhibition closed) – November 8, 2027
Returning Works (carrying out by shipping company arranged by the organizer.)	Within 6 months after the 14 th International Ceramics Exhibition Mino, Japan is closed.

2. Carry-in of the work

Documents listed below will be sent to those who pass the Second Screening between mid- and late April 2027. Documents will also be uploaded to your My Page. Please read them carefully and carry in works according to 【A】 or 【B】 below.

* If individual fixtures such as walls, lighting, decorations, etc. are needed for the exhibition of works, applicants are required to prepare them by themselves and carry them in.

No.	Document Types	Note
1	Notification of Result	Passing of Second Screening is notified in writing.
2	Entry Label	Please make sure to attach it to the specified place of the work. (see “Precautions”)
3	Package Label	Please make sure to attach it to the specified place of the package. (see “Precautions”)
4	Credit Label	(overseas applicants only) Please make sure to attach it to the specified place of the package. (see “Precautions”)
5	Notification of Carry-in of the work	Guidelines for carry-in of the works.
6	Precautions	Precautions for carry-in of the works.

【A】 Domestic Carry-in

Applicants can carry in works either by transportation or by themselves. Please follow the instructions below.

(1) Burden of Expenses

Applicants are responsible for transportation, insurance and all the other costs related to the delivery of works.

*Please refer to “5. Insurance” for more information on insurance.

(2) Acceptance Period of Works

Carry-in by transportation: July 22 – July 28, 2027

Carry-in by self: July 27 – July 28, 2027

* The organizer will not be held responsible if the works do not arrive during this period and thus fall under the category of 【Examples of Disqualified Works】 described in “10. Screening Process” in 《Competition Details》.

(3) Artwork Delivery Address (Shipping Delivery / Self-Delivery)

This will be notified in the document “No.5 Notification of Carry-in of the work” mentioned above.

【B】 Overseas Carry-in

Works will be accepted by transportation only. Please follow the instructions below.

(1) Burden of Expenses

Applicants are responsible for transportation, taxes, insurance and all other costs related to the delivery of works. However, the organizer shall bear the costs of import duties and consumption tax in Japan.

For insurance, please refer to “5. Insurance”.

(2) Acceptance Period of Works

July 8, 2027 – July 12, 2027

* The organizer will not be held responsible if the works do not arrive during this period and thus fall under the category of **【Examples of Disqualified Works】** described in “**10. Screening Process**” in 《Competition Details》.

(3) Artwork Delivery Address

This will be notified in the document “No.5 Notification of Carry-in of the work” mentioned above.

3. Return of Works

If the applicants wish to have their works returned, works should be returned either (1) by a shipping company arranged by the organizer or (2) by self-removal, or shipping companies arranged by the applicants.

(1) How to Return

① By a Shipping Company Arranged by the Organizer

When returning works, the transportation fee must be paid in advance. The organizer will return the works as soon as payment is confirmed.

③ By Self-Removal, or by Shipping Companies Arranged by the Applicants

Period of Carry-out: November 7, 2027 (After the exhibition closed until 8:00 p.m.)

and November 8, 2027 (10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)

The organizer will not be involved in any administrative work related to the shipping companies arranged by the applicants. Applicants must complete the procedures themselves.

(2) Burden of Expenses

Applicants are responsible for transportation, taxes, insurance and all of other costs related to the returning of works.

*Please refer to “5. Insurance” for more information on insurance.

(3) Others

If a work is not selected because it falls into **【Examples of Disqualified Works】** described in “**10. Screening Process**” in 《Competition Details》, we will separately discuss how to return the work.

4. How to treat works that are not wished to be returned

(1) In following cases, the organizer will assume that “works are not wished to be returned”.

① When "I do not want to have the work returned" is selected for the return method.

② If the transportation fee for the return of the work is not paid by the payment deadline.

③ If the applicant cannot be contacted for a certain period (approximately one month) despite requesting the return of the work.

(2) For works that the applicants do not wish to return, the organizer will assume that the applicants have abandoned their ownership and handle them as follows.

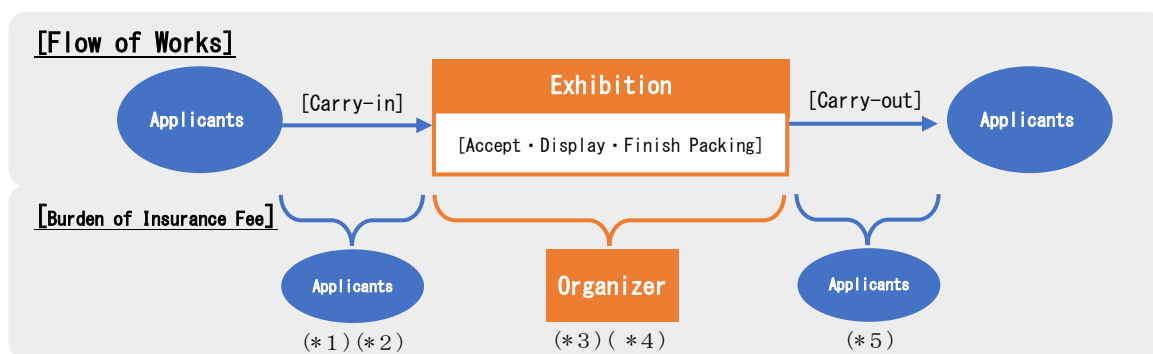
① The organizer will dispose of them.

② No donation, transfer, or other intermediary service will be provided.

5. Insurance

The insurance policy for damage to the works, etc. is as follows.

●Flow of Works and Burden of Insurance Fee



- (* 1) The applicants are responsible for insurance fee until the organizer receive works. Therefore, the applicants should insure the work if necessary.
- (* 2) Depending on the extent of the damage of the work, it may fall under the category of 【Examples of Disqualified Works】 described in **“10. Screening Process”** in 《Competition Details》. Please make sure to pack works with extreme care.
- (* 3) The organizer is responsible for insurance fee for the works after receipt, during the exhibition period, and from the end of the exhibition to the completion of packing. However, the maximum amount of insurance coverage is 300,000 Japanese yen per work. Therefore, the value of the work to be stated on the invoice when shipping from overseas should be 300,000 Japanese yen or less.
- (* 4) Once works are received, the organizer will take every precaution to keep them safe. Please note, however, that the organizer will not be held responsible for any damage etc. due to natural disasters or other unavoidable circumstances.
- (* 5) The applicants are responsible for insurance fee from the time the packing is completed until the works are received by the applicants. Therefore, the applicants should insure the work if necessary.

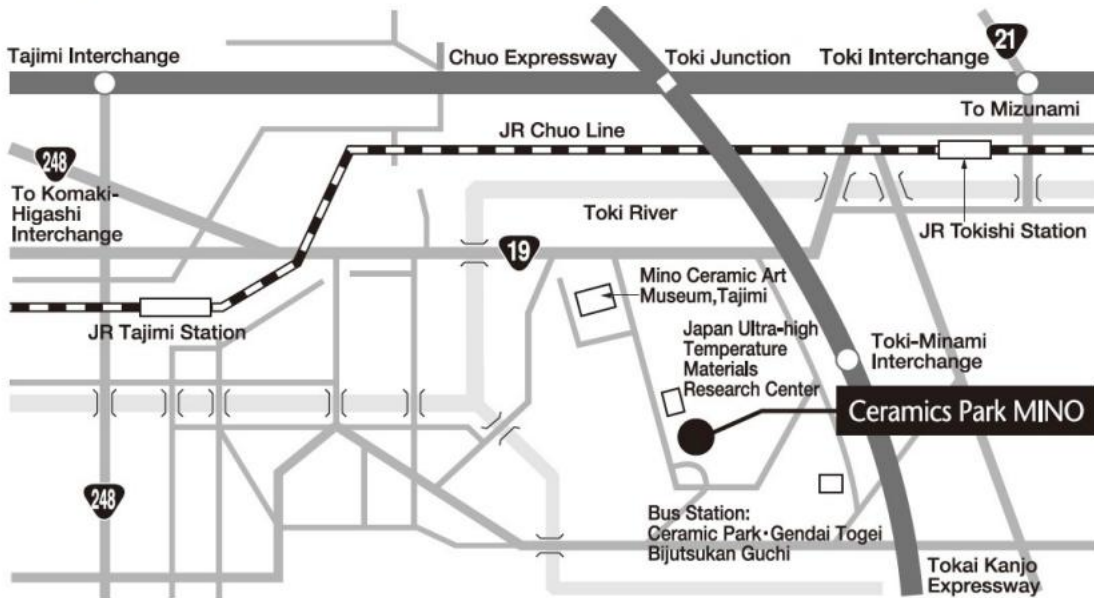
Contact

Please contact us via email.
Japanese or English only.

Executive Committee Office, International Ceramics Festival Mino, Japan
Address: Ceramics Park MINO 4-2-5 Higashi-machi, Tajimi City, Gifu 507-0801 Japan
E-Mail : info@icfmino.com

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Map



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