

Driftless Ceramics Biennial 2027 - Exhibition **Details & Requirements**

The Inaugural Juried Exhibition of Contemporary Ceramics

Hosted by the Pump House Regional Arts Center
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Exhibition Dates: June 21 – July 24, 2027

About the Exhibition

The Driftless Ceramics Biennial is a juried exhibition celebrating outstanding contemporary ceramic artwork by established and emerging artists from across the Region.

Hosted in the Pump House Regional Arts Center's Kader Gallery, the Biennial highlights the diversity of contemporary ceramics—from functional pottery to sculptural and conceptual work—while providing an opportunity for artists to exhibit in the unique landscape of Wisconsin's Driftless Region and surrounding areas.

Rather than prescribing a theme, the exhibition invites artists to submit their strongest work. The Driftless Region provides the setting, history, and sense of place, while the artwork reflects the individual voices of today's ceramic artists.

Juror – Jarred Pfeiffer

The Pump House Regional Arts Center is honored to welcome **Jarred Pfeiffer** as juror for the 2027 Ceramics Biennial. Pfeiffer is an Associate Professor of Art specializing in ceramics at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Art from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and his Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics from Kansas State University.

Pfeiffer's studio practice encompasses both functional pottery and sculptural ceramics, with work exhibited in numerous national and international juried and invitational exhibitions. He has participated in artist residencies across the United States and abroad, including the renowned Shigaraki Cultural Ceramic Park in Shigaraki, Japan. His expertise spans wheel throwing, hand-building, slip casting, kiln design, glaze development, and atmospheric firing techniques.

Before joining UW–La Crosse, Pfeiffer served as Head of Ceramics at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, California, where he helped develop one of the region's leading collegiate ceramics programs. At UW–La Crosse, he continues to mentor emerging artists while advancing contemporary ceramic practice through teaching, research, and an active exhibition schedule. His thoughtful approach to craftsmanship, innovation, and artistic excellence makes him exceptionally well suited to jury the inaugural Pump House Ceramics Biennial.

Awards

Best Functional Ceramic — \$500

Best Non-Functional Ceramic — \$500

Additional Honorable Mentions may be awarded at the juror's discretion.

Eligibility

Open to artists 18 years of age or older residing in the United States.

Eligible works must:

- Be primarily ceramic.
- Have been completed within the last three years.
- Be original works created by the submitting artist.
- Not have been previously exhibited at the Pump House Regional Arts Center.

Collaborative works are welcome if all artists are credited.

Accepted Media

Artists may submit up to 3 pieces. The exhibition welcomes all contemporary ceramic practices including:

- Wheel-thrown ceramics
- Hand-built ceramics
- Porcelain
- Stoneware
- Earthenware
- Mixed-media works in which ceramic is the primary material

- Installation
- Wall-mounted ceramics
- Functional ceramics
- Sculptural ceramics

Works requiring extraordinary installation or maintenance may not be accepted.

Entry Fee

\$35 for first entry and 50% off on two additional entries. Each piece submitted needs to be its own application.

Calendar

Call Opens - September 1, 2026

Entry Deadline - January 31, 2027

Notification of Acceptance - March 31, 2027

Delivery of Artwork - June 17, 18, 19, 21, 2027

Opening Reception & Awards - Friday, July 2, 2027

Exhibition Closes - July 24, 2027

Submission Requirements

Each entry must include:

- Artist statement (maximum 250 words)
- Artwork title
- Year completed
- Medium
- Dimensions
- Retail price or insurance value
- High-quality digital images
- Weight

Artists may submit up to three works. Accepted work must closely match submitted images.

Sales

The Pump House Regional Arts Center will retain a **40% commission** on all sales. All artwork must be for sale.

Shipping

Accepted artists are responsible for shipping artwork to and from the Pump House.

Artwork must be professionally packed in reusable containers.

Return shipping labels must be included or prepaid through the designated carrier.

Hand delivery is encouraged.

Insurance

Artwork will be insured by the artist. The Pump House takes no responsibility for damage at or during shipment to the Pump House.

Installation

The Pump House will install all accepted work. Artists with installation requirements should include detailed instructions. Large installations may require consultation prior to acceptance.

Image Requirements

- JPEG or PNG format
- Minimum 250 pixels on the longest side
- Neutral background preferred
- Accurate color representation
- Video showing all angles of piece encourage

- Detail images are encouraged
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Rights

Artists retain copyright to their artwork.

By entering, artists grant the Pump House Regional Arts Center permission to reproduce accepted images for exhibition publicity, educational materials, social media, and future promotional purposes with artist credit.

Liability

Every reasonable precaution will be taken in handling artwork.

Submission constitutes agreement with all conditions outlined in this prospectus.

The juror's decisions are final.

About the Pump House Regional Arts Center

Located in the heart of historic downtown La Crosse, Wisconsin, the Pump House Regional Arts Center has served artists and audiences for decades through exhibitions, education, performances, and community engagement. The Pump House galleries host nationally recognized exhibitions while providing opportunities for regional and emerging artists to exhibit alongside accomplished professionals.

Contact

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