

September 2026

ceramic brussels

Announces the inaugural edition of ceramic basel

Celebrating fire and māteria

15.06.27 till 15.06.27

At the heart of Basel Art Week

Building on three internationally acclaimed editions, ceramic brussels has chosen Basel for its international expansion. The leading contemporary art fair dedicated to ceramics is taking a strategic step forward, announcing the inaugural edition of ceramic basel, conceived as an exceptional platform right in the midst of the vibrant atmosphere of Basel Art Week.

ceramic basel | celebrating fire and māteria will offer a one-of-a-kind platform for the promotion of ceramics, glass, textile, and more broadly the arts of fire and matter, within the art market. A true bridge between traditional craftsmanship and contemporary art, ceramic basel celebrates the precision of the gesture and the audacity of creation. From the outset, it establishes itself as a major milestone in strengthening ceramics' position as a leading medium in contemporary art, while questioning its boundaries with the decorative arts.

"Our ambition is to build a platform capable of acting as a catalyst for the global ceramics market, supporting its historic growth while accompanying its future shifts," says Gilles Parmentier, co-founder of ceramic basel. "The fair is designed as a high-level meeting place and a crossroads of excellence, where leading collectors, galleries, institutions and artists will come together, at the heart of the world's most prestigious art week. The arrival of our fair in Basel is a significant milestone and an unprecedented accelerator of visibility. It is also the start of an exceptional adventure for our team, our galleries, our artists, and more broadly, our partners and the community committed alongside us." he continues.

ceramic basel was born from a deep conviction: that raw matter and fire have essentially shaped the history of art. In an age dominated by the virtual and the digital, the fair's identity stands as a true manifesto for the tangible, celebrating the unique alchemy through which fire's invisible energy transmutes earth into eternal works of art. By uniting primordial fire (fire) and the infinite textural exploration of matter (materia), the event celebrates an art form that is intensely physical, tactile and universal.

«The movement we are witnessing today in favour of restoring value to these practices, too long and unjustly relegated to the background, is truly exceptional," adds Jean-Marc Dimanche, co-founder of ceramic basel. "Now firmly established at the heart of Basel, this ambitious project offers a historic sounding board. Ceramics, and more broadly the arts of fire — such as glass, but also fundamental mediums like textile, wood or stone — will finally have a platform unlike any other in the world to champion, assert and discover them. It sends a strong signal to institutions and to the global market. »

A landmark programme: tribute, institutional carte blanche projects, and talks

The fair will offer an ambitious programme, built around a major exhibition space dedicated to a tribute to an emblematic artistic figure, whose historic body of work has left its mark on the practice of ceramics or glass.

The event will also host projects and curated spaces developed in close collaboration with international institutions and museums. This panorama will be further enriched by a series of talks and conferences bringing together artists, art historians, critics and leading collectors to discuss the current issues surrounding matter, its conservation and its market.

The DNA and scenography of ceramic brussels at the heart of Basel

The fair's experience will be elevated by a bespoke scenography, designed to break away from the monotony of traditional fairs. ceramic basel's scenography will prioritise space and perspective, respecting the physicality and volume of the exhibited works. This unique approach, true to the DNA that forged ceramic brussels' success and singular identity, creates a setting conducive to showcasing materials and fosters unprecedented dialogues, particularly between modern and ultra-contemporary creation.

A prestigious and strategic setting at the heart of the global art community

ceramic brussels finds its new home at Messe and Congress Center Basel, bringing the event right at the epicentre of the global art world. Both the venue and Art Basel belong to MCH Group. This unprecedented synergy will allow ceramic basel to become an unmissable stop on the wider programme of this intense week. The fair will thus have the privilege of welcoming Art Basel's VIP collectors, ensuring international interest and visibility from its very opening.

Two exceptional sections for an elite selection

The fair will span 4,000 m² and present a tightly curated selection of 65 leading international contemporary and modern art galleries, alongside an openness to exclusive and historical projects and proposals. It will be structured around two main sections:

- **fire** : dedicated to modern and contemporary ceramics, also encompassing glass and the arts of fire. Refusing any temporal boundaries, this section will set itself apart through its openness to historic masterpieces and to the most exclusive works of art, creating an unprecedented dialogue between major artistic heritage and contemporary boldness.

- **māteria** : dedicated to the dialogue with any other medium in sculptural creation (such as textile, bronze or wood), inviting visitors to discover the connections between materials, creation and the artist's gesture. Derived from mater — meaning "mother" in Latin — "māteria" refers to the physical substance from which all things are made, the raw matter that "gives birth" to objects.

A year of exceptional gatherings

Basel Art Week's rich programme will be exceptionally complemented in 2027 by the simultaneous opening of documenta 16 in Kassel and Skulptur Projekte Münster, the legendary and rare once-a-decade exhibition of public art. This unprecedented concentration of major events will further establish Basel as the absolute epicentre of global artistic and cultural attention.

Practical information

- **Dates:** 15 to 20 June 2027 (Professional and VIP days on 15 and 16 June)
- **Location :** Messe and Congress Center Basel (Hall 4) – Messeplatz – Basel, Switzerland
- **Call for applications :** Gallery applications will open in October 2026.
- **Programme :** First programming details to be announced from October 2026.
- **Ticketing and accreditations:** Professional requests open from January 2027.

About ceramic brussels:

In just a few years, ceramic brussels has established itself as the world's leading international fair for contemporary ceramics. After three critically acclaimed editions, the Brussels-based fair has succeeded in bringing together an international community of collectors, institutions and enthusiasts. Building on this unique expertise and reputation for excellence, the fair is now expanding its model to Basel, confirming its role as a driving force in the recognition of ceramics and materials within the global art market.

About the founders: Gilles Parmentier and Jean-Marc Dimanche:

Behind this vision are two complementary figures from the world of art: Gilles Parmentier and Jean-Marc Dimanche. Drawing on their close partnership and combined expertise — uniting strong strategic leadership of international fairs with exhibition curation of the highest calibre, focused on craftsmanship and contemporary creation — they share a common ambition: to redefine the place of matter within the global art market. Having founded and established ceramic brussels as an unmissable crossroads in

Europe, the duo — backed by a dedicated team and an expert strategic committee — is now deploying its expertise and network in Basel.---

ceramic brussels

4^e édition I 20 > 24 January 2027
Tour & Taxis, Brussels

ceramic basel

1^{ere} édition I 15 > 20 Junbe 2027
Congress Center, Basel

ceramic-basel.com (online 05.10.2026)
ceramic.brussels