CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Prix de la céramique Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics

Apply by Sunday, January 24, 2027 at 11:59 PM EST

THE CANADIAN CLAY & GLASS GALLERY

Generously Supported by:

Waterloo Region Community Foundation | Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts



Erin Berry, 2026 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics Winner
Layers of the Shell (detail), 2026
Porcelain, 31 x 27 x 9 cm
Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery Permanent Collection

2027 Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics

Application Guidelines

Deadline: Received electronically by Sunday, January 24, 2027, at 11:59pm EST.

Submit Online: https://form.jotform.com/clayandglass/2027-Shantz

The **Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics is a national award for emerging ceramic artists with $18,000 in prizes available**. Thanks to the ongoing partnership between the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery and the Keith and Winifred Shantz Fund for the Arts, held at Waterloo Region Community Foundation, this award is presented annually to a practising emerging artist who has worked professionally for five to ten years as of the deadline date. Professional practice typically begins upon completion of a college or bachelor's degree in ceramics. If alternate circumstances apply, demonstrate how you identify as an emerging artist in the cover letter portion of the application. The Shantz Award is intended to allow the winning artist to undertake a period of independent research or other activities with the goal of advancing their artistic and professional practice.

The winner of the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics will receive $10,000. One **runner-up will receive a prize of $5,000**. Up to **3 finalists** will also be selected who will each receive a prize of **$1,000**. The winner, runner-up, and finalists will have their work featured in a group exhibition alongside the winner and finalists of the RBC Award for Glass at the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery from May to September 2027. Prizes are inclusive of CARFAC exhibition fees. The Gallery also purchases an artwork by the winner and runner-up for the Permanent Collection each year.

The Award will be presented at the opening reception, held at the Gallery in Waterloo. The tentative date for this reception is **Thursday, May 27, 2027, at 6:00pm**. Transportation and accommodation will be provided to the winner, as required. To be eligible for the Award, applicants must be available to attend the reception, tentatively scheduled for May

27, and be prepared to make a brief artist talk should they win the award. The winner and finalists will be notified in early March.

All of the Winifred Shantz Award winners to date have contributed to the uniquely Canadian contemporary ceramic art scene including Erin Berry (2026), Sami Tsang (2025), Lael Chmelyk (2024), Amy Duval (2023), Matthew O'Reilly (2022), and Jocelyn Reid (2021).

Eligibility Criteria

To apply for the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics, you must be a Canadian citizen or have Permanent Resident Status, as defined by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. You must also meet our definition of an emerging professional artist, which is an artist who:

- Has maintained a professional practice for five to ten years as of the application deadline date. Professional practice typically begins upon completion of a college or bachelor's degree in ceramics. If alternate circumstances apply, demonstrate how you identify as an emerging artist in the cover letter portion of the application;
- Is not currently enrolled as a student at any university/college, course, or certification program
- Has developed skills through training and/or practice in the field;
- Operates or has consistent access to a ceramic studio;
- Has a body of work that incorporates a public presence and peer recognition; and
- Seeks payment for their work and has an active and engaged practice

The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery accepts applications for the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics in English or French. The Gallery is committed to equity and diversity. We encourage applications from individuals that reflect the diversity of our audience, including from artists of colour, Indigenous artists, deaf artists, artists with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ artists.

Eligible Projects

Applications will be assessed, in part, based on the following activities and opportunities which may be combined, but must take place within a one-year period of receiving the award.

- Travelling for career development including connecting with mentors, studying museum collections, visiting other studios, and attending conferences or symposia;
- Liaising with industry to perform research that will further in-studio production;
- Short-term independent (or self-directed) production/experimentation, studies or workshops; and/or

- A national or international artist-in-residence (AIR) program

Note that projects specifically related to craft or art sales and fairs will not be considered.

Project Report and Video

The successful applicant will be required to create a short video discussing their artistic practice and sharing information about their planned project to be undertaken with award funds. The runner-up may also be invited to create a short video for the Gallery's use. The successful applicant will be required to produce a summary report of their project activities. This will detail the project undertaken and the impact the award had on the artist's development. The project review may be a written account accompanied by images. This report will be submitted to peter@theclayandglass.ca and is due 18 months after the award is granted.

Application Format

We will only accept applications submitted through our online submission system. Please format your entire application (including images) as a **single PDF document. Click here to submit your document.**
Please ensure that you include all required materials in the following order:

1. COVER LETTER (maximum 500 words)
   Please write a letter indicating why you are applying for the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics and how you meet the criteria of eligibility including your status as an emerging artist. Please sign and date the cover letter and **provide your full name, mailing address, telephone, and email contact information**.

2. PROJECT PROPOSAL (maximum 500 words)
   This award is meant to offer an opportunity to push an emerging artist's practice conceptually and technically. Proposals should outline the activities and opportunities selected, the research program, anticipated learning, potential outcomes and intended relevance to your future work. In addition, please indicate what steps you have taken to initiate, advance or confirm the status of your project activities.

3. CURRICULUM VITAE (maximum 3 pages)
   Please include the following information:
   - mailing address, phone number and email. Include website or Instagram if you have one.
   - professional training (educational background, mentors, workshops, etc.)

- exhibition history
- public presentation history (if any)
- collections: public, corporate, and private (if any)
- bibliography of critical reviews of your work (if any)
- prizes, awards, and other grants (if any)
- other activities related to your practice.

4. IMAGES
   a) Your PDF document should include up to 10 digital still images.
   b) Present your works chronologically, from the oldest to the most recent work.
   c) Some of the digital images can provide an installation or exhibition view, giving an idea of the dimensions of the work relative to the space (if applicable).
   d) You must include the following information for each image: title, date, medium, size, other relevant information. Either insert this information directly on the image or provide a corresponding image list.
   e) If work is kinetic or robotic or integrates time-based or sound elements, an online link to a short film may also be included (max: 3 minutes). For each film submitted, the maximum number of still images decreases by two (e.g., if one film is submitted, please limit the number of images to 8).

5. OTHER SUPPORT MATERIAL
   You may include in your application:
   - digital versions of any catalogues; and/or
   - digital versions of any critical reviews of your work.

Important Note

All required support material must be digitally contained in your PDF application as a single file. An application that does not include all required support material will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn from the competition. All submissions will be kept on file in the Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery's Artists' Registry for archival purposes.

Additional Components

The following elements are also required as part of your application but will not be assessed by the jurors:

- Short Artist Bio (Up to 150 words)

- Headshot (Print quality)
- 3 Images of your artwork suitable for promotion with accompanying credit lines (Title, date, medium, dimensions, photographer credit, collection of)
- Optional self-identification

Application Grading

Applications will be graded by a jury of three artists and experts according to the following framework:

Eligibility and CV	20%
Cover Letter	15%
Project Proposal	35%
Recent Works	30%

Contact

For more information, contact Peter Flannery, Senior Curator & Collections Manager, at peter@theclayandglass.ca