



THE UMBRELLA

The Umbrella Arts Center - Ceramics Biennial 2026

"Earthworks: Evolution", juried by Lisa Orr

Exhibition Dates: April 29 - June 28, 2026 | Submissions Deadline: Jan. 9, 2026

ABOUT: The Umbrella Arts Center of Concord, MA presents its second Ceramics Biennial Exhibition, "Earthworks: Evolution", a regional show celebrating the depth of history, tradition, and cultural expression in contemporary ceramics, and the ways in which artists continue to expand the field through innovation and reinterpretation. As part of The Umbrella Arts Center's continued commitment to the ceramic medium, we intend for this show to highlight emerging and established artists working in clay. This show invites artists currently residing in New England to honor the skill, knowledge, and diversity of our regional ceramics community.

SCHEDULE:

- January 9, 2026: First Application deadline
- January 16, 2026: Final Application deadline (late fee applied)
- February 20, 2026: Artist Notification
- April 1, 2026: Receiving (Shipped or delivery by appointment)
- April 29, 2026: Opening
- June 28, 2026: Closing/Deinstallation begins

ELIGIBILITY: This exhibition is open to all works which use clay as the primary medium, both functional and sculptural. Open to artists currently residing or working in New England.

AWARDS: \$1000 grand prize and up to five (5) \$100 honorable mentions to be awarded by the juror.



JUROR: Lisa Orr has been a studio potter for over 40 years. After completing an MFA at the NYSCC Alfred in 1992, she received a Fulbright, an MAAA/NEA and other grants to research ceramics and create films. Her work has been placed in numerous public and private collections. Currently refining an accessible smokeless wood kiln, she also teaches, lectures, and shows nationally and internationally.

Orr's ceramics lushly blend historical, functional roots with organic, fluid forms that embrace gentle asymmetry. Inspired by nature and intuition, her richly textured and colorfully glazed slip-cast surfaces evoke birds on the wing, coral reefs, and blooming flowers, resulting in work that's vibrant, emotional, and assured.

MORE INFORMATION: visit TheUmbrellaArts.org/Earthworks

ENTRY FEE: A flat fee of \$35.00 includes up to three (3) submissions.

- Artists will need to submit their works through <https://showsubmit.com/show/uac-ceramics-biennial-2026>.
- Payment will also go through ShowSubmit.
- Submissions may be edited until the application deadline.
- A late submission fee of \$45 will be applied to any application submitted between January 9 - January 16.

DEADLINE: January 9, 2026. Application through ShowSubmit must be submitted by 11:59pm on this date. Late submissions will be accepted until January 16.

CONDITIONS: UAC reserves the right to reject entries that do not meet these requirements or are deemed unsuitable for our gallery space.

- All entries must be original, must use clay as the primary material, and must be completed within the last three (3) years.
- Shipped work that differs from submitted images will not be accepted.
- Work damaged in shipping will regretfully not be presented.
- All accepted work must have proper identification.
- No accepted work may be picked up before the closing of the exhibition.
- Work may be available for sale or must be identified as NFS. The retail price or insurance value provided on the entry form will be used; no changes may be made after the work is shipped.

SHIPPING:

- Shipping costs are the responsibility of the artist (UPS or FEDEX preferred).
- Please check with your carrier on recommended packing procedures; detailed packing, unpacking, and/or handling instructions must accompany all shipped or hand delivered works. Please label all exterior and interior boxes and crates with the artist name and title of work.
- A check for return shipping, including the cost of insurance, must accompany delivered work, payable to The Umbrella Arts. Any work that does not have a prepaid return label will not be shipped back.

HAND DELIVERY (PREFERRED):

- Hand-delivered work is the responsibility of the artist. No personnel will be available to assist with delivery into the gallery.
- Please contact the Center to make an appointment to arrange for artist-coordinated delivery/pickup at VisualArts@TheUmbrellaArts.org, with subject line: "2026 Biennial Delivery"

RECEIVING DEADLINE: April 1, 2026. All work must be received no later than these dates.

SALES/INSURANCE:

- A 30% commission on all sales will be retained by The Umbrella. Artists must indicate sale price and insurance value or, if NFS, just insurance value.
- Submission of work to this exhibit is done so at the artist's risk and implies an agreement on the part of the artist to all the conditions of this Call for Submission.
- The Umbrella will not be responsible for loss or damage to work in transit, however, work will be insured while in The Umbrella Arts Center facility.

PUBLICITY:

- The Umbrella reserves the right to photograph entries for the purposes of documentation, education, and publicity.
- Accepted artists are encouraged to send to The Umbrella a resume, artist statement, brochures, and additional photographic materials of the accepted work for publicity purposes.