



OFFICINE SAFFI
International Competition
for Art Ceramics and Design



OPEN TO ART

The winners of the first edition of the international Prize dedicated to art and design ceramics.

The 34 finalist works will be on show until 4 July 2014.

Officine Saffi, Milan

March 2014 – Today, on occasion of the inauguration of the exhibition presenting the finalists' works, the names of the **winners** of the **first edition of the Open to Art prize** have been announced. The international biennial competition is dedicated to the **world of art and design ceramics**, and it was created and promoted by the **Officine Saffi Project** group, under the auspices of the **Municipality of Milan**.

Open to Art can be considered as an international observatory for contemporary research in two specific areas, ceramics used in the fields of art and design. Its mission is to identify peaks of excellence and the most innovative trends in terms of language and technique.

The international jury chose the winners from a selection of 34 finalists (21 for Art Ceramics, 13 for Design Ceramics), from 18 countries, aged between 25 and 71 years old. The jury comprised **Cinzia Bitossi** (Bitossi Ceramiche), **Laura Borghi** (gallery owner, Officine Saffi, Milan, creator and promoter of the prize), **Claudia Casali** (director of the International Ceramics Museum, MIC, Faenza), **Jennifer Lee** (artist), **Jukka Savolainen** (director of the Museum of Design, Helsinki), and **Tomoko Tanioka** (TOGAKUDO gallery).

The first prize in each of the two categories, corresponding to 5,000 euro each, was assigned to **Jozsef Simon Zsolt** (Hungary, 1973) for the **Art** category, and to **Margareta Daepp** (Switzerland, 1959) for the **Design** category.

These are the citations provided by the jury:

Jozsef Simon Zsolt: *"The vase – or rather the negative form of a vase – is a fascinating study of the notion of form and materiality in this age of technology and 3D printing. The technical detailing and unfinished surface of the piece creates a myriad of questions for the viewer, while maintaining the aesthetic beauty of an art piece, thus communicating on various levels as a true artwork does."*

Margareta Daepp: *"For her skill in combining the functionality of an object with a clean, simple geometry, in a rational interaction between space and volumes, balanced by a complex decoration of eastern flavour, a motif that is both historical and modern, and wholly part of the object, contributing to the creation of new aesthetic dimensions."*

In addition to the first prizes in the two categories, another three awards were assigned:

Ezster Imre (Hungary, 1985) received a **special commendation** from the **Carlo Zauli Museum**, Faenza, an institution that is committed to supporting artists of the new generations who are already using, or would like to use, ceramics in their art. The award also includes the possibility of working as an assistant alongside one of the artists hosted as part of the Museum's Artists' Residency programme, designed to promote the use of ceramics in contemporary art.

Vanessa Redondo (Venezuela, 1987) was awarded the special prize for young artists **under the age of 30**, offered by the historic ceramics factory **Bitossi Ceramiche**. Redondo will have the opportunity of taking a training internship at the company.

Ann van Hoey (1956, Belgium) received a special commendation from the company **Wiffa Srl**.

The exhibition of the finalists' works will be open to the public from **Thursday 3 April to Monday 14 July 2014**, at the **Officine Saffi Ceramic Arts Gallery**, Milan.

On occasion of the finalists' exhibition, the bilingual (Italian/English) magazine **La Ceramica in Italia e nel Mondo**, published by Officine Saffi Publishing, will have a special catalogue section, with detailed information on the finalists' artistic careers and works for the **Open to Art** Prize.

During Design Week, from 2 to 13 April, the exhibition will be enhanced by the participation of the company **Wiffa Srl**, which will be presenting a special installation that will highlight the works of art on show to an even greater degree. The installation is a modified version of the company's glazing system with virtually invisible frames, a high-end product that is part of the Sky-Frame line.

Open to Art is the result of the many years of experience, and the enthusiasm, of the **Officine Saffi Project** group, whose mission is to promote ceramics in all its forms, introducing this art form to the general public, encouraging its use and collection, and its interaction with art and design. Officine Saffi Project comprises the **Officine Saffi Ceramic Arts Gallery**, the workshop **Officine Saffi Lab** in Milan, and the magazine **La Ceramica in Italia e nel Mondo**.

The event was produced in cooperation with:

Partner: Wiffa Sky Frame

Sponsor: Banca Euromobiliare

USEFUL INFORMATION

Open to Art, International Competition of Art and Design Ceramics

Prize-giving and exhibition inauguration: 2 April 2014, 6.30-9.00 p.m.

Exhibition of the finalist artists: 3 April - 14 July 2014

Venue: Officine Saffi Ceramic Arts Gallery, Via Aurelio Saffi 7 - Milan

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THE WINNERS

First Prize, Art Section: Jozsef Simon Zsolt (Hungary, 1973)

After having trained in ceramics at the Fischer Mor Porcelain Industrial Vocational School in Herend, Jozsef Simon Zsolt studied painting, theatre and music in Budapest. He graduated at the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest, and won a one-year scholarship in Indonesia, at UNAIR University, Surabaya, where he learnt new techniques. His works have been exhibited at the 4th and 5th International Ceramics Biennial Exhibition in Korea (2007, 2009) and at the Spanish International Biennial Exhibition in Manises (2009), achieving important recognition for his work. His sculptures have been exhibited in Europe and Indonesia.

First Prize, Design Section: Margareta Daepf (Switzerland, 1959)

Margareta Daepf lives and works in Bern. Her artistic training began in 1972 at the Design School in Bern, where she attained a diploma in Ceramic Arts in 1981. She continued her studies at the Ecole des Arts Décoratifs, Geneva, with Setsuko Nagasawa, and later, as a Visiting Student, with Rebecca Horn and Isa Genzken at the Berlin University of the Arts. She took a Master in Design | Art + Innovation at the Basel School of Art and Design. From 1999 she has been a teacher at the Department of Ceramics, Ecole CFP Arts Appliqués, Geneva.

Special commendation, Carlo Zauli Museum: Ezster Imre (Hungary, 1985)

Ezster Imre lives and works in Gothenburg (Sweden). Ceramic artist and designer, she launched her career with Table Wear, an unusual collection of hand-made porcelain jewellery.

Special commendation for an artist under 30, Bitossi Ceramiche: Vanessa Redondo (Venezuela, 1987)

Architect and designer, Vanessa Redondo lives and works in Madrid. She began her career as an architect, and graduated at the Central University of Venezuela in 2010; she later studied photography and design at the Istituto Europeo di Design (IED) in Spain.

Wiffa special commendation: Ann van Hoey (1956, Belgium)

Ann van Hoey graduated in Applied Business Science at the University of Antwerp, and then took a degree in Ceramics at IKA (Institute for Arts and Craft) in Malines. She has been a member of the International Academy of Ceramics since 2011. She has won many prizes, including the Silver Prize at the 8th edition of the Cheongju International Craft Competition (KOR) in 2013, and an honorary commendation at the Taiwan Ceramics Biennial Exhibition in Taipei (2012).

THE FINALISTS

Art Section

Palma Babos (Hungary, 1961)
Barness Eliasov Einav (Israel, 1975)
Calcagno Silvia Celeste (Italy, 1974)
Curneen Claire (Ireland, 1968)
Eandrade Alfredo (Argentina, 1967)
Eastman Ken (U.K., 1960)
Favelli Flavio (Italy, 1967)
Galliani Michelangelo (Italy, 1975)
Hartmann Rasmussen Malene (Denmark, 1973)
Kino Satoshi (Japan, 1989)
Manz Bodil (Denmark, 1943)
Perez Rafael (Spain, 1957)
Nomura Ayaka (Japan, 1987)
Perryman Jane (U.K., 1947)
Polloniato Paolo (Italy, 1979)
Salvatori Andrea (Italy, 1975)
Shaw Mella (U.K., 1978)
Tuominen Nittylä Kati (Finland, 1947)
Zsolt Jozsef Simon (Hungary, 1973)

Design Section

Daepf Margareta (Switzerland, 1959)
Demo Paolo (Italy, 1974)
Desaules Jean-Marc (Switzerland, 1968)
Hoogeboom Peter (Netherlands, 1961)
Imre Eszter (Hungary, 1985)
Jung Minji (South Korea, 1983)
Karakaya Betul (Turkey, 1978)
Lacruz Gloria (Spain, 1964)
Lancellotti Luigi Massimo (Italy, 1986)
Redondo Angel Vanessa (Venezuela, 1987)
Van Hoey Ann (Belgium, 1956)
Venables Prue (Australia, 1954)