



**Mixed Media –  
Ceramics plus**



**The  
Nassauische  
Sparkasse  
2010 Talent  
Award for  
Ceramics**

# Mixed Media – Ceramics plus

## The Nassauische Sparkasse 2010 Talent Award for Ceramics

### Preamble

The Nassauische Sparkasse Talent Award for Ceramics was started in 1990 and currently takes place every three years.

In the past years prizes have been awarded for the following competition topics:

1991 “The thrown vessel”  
1994 “Ceramic sculpture”  
1997 “Ceramic surface”  
2000 “Large-scale outdoor ceramic sculpture”  
2003 “Ceramic installation”

The topic in 2010 is  
**“Mixed Media – Ceramics plus”.**

### Definition

This competition calls for works which combine the media clay with either similar or seemingly incompatible materials.

Any technique of combining mixed media is possible: during production, mixing other media with the raw material, enhancement in the glaze or embellishments, applications added before, during or after firing, with bonding methods such as attaching, gluing, hanging or patchwork etc.

An experimental, artistic and exemplary way of using clay/porcelain as a material mixed with ...

The finished piece of work to be judged for the award must be an aesthetically interesting, ceramic oriented object.

This topic is intended to encourage innovative and inspiring works reaching beyond the limitations of traditional ceramic production techniques.

Creative play should bring new artistic techniques to enable artists to go beyond the narrow boundaries for combining materials. MIXED MEDIA is free interpretation using “material” without regard for material restrictions to create an interesting artistic object.

Our competition exhibition will present artistic possibilities with the ancient raw material clay to the general public: Ceramics in a new dimension – not as a cheap raw material and basic commodity, but as a material used for forming “ideas”.

### Definition “MIXED MEDIA”

MIXED MEDIA is a modern term within the art of ceramics. Combining the use of clay with other materials, however, reaches a long way back into the history of mankind.

Early ritual vessels and containers, artefacts combining clay with felt, string or bones originate from our ancestors’ ritual treasures. We have been using ceramic vessels with lids made of tin and silver, ivory or ebony for hundreds of years. Nowadays, teapots with e.g. handles made of bamboo, wood, bone or metal, are MIXED MEDIA. Clay in mixed forms is represented in lighting objects, jewellery, in the craft of making musical instruments, industrial design or furniture design – in the form of clay plus glass, clay plus metal, clay plus textiles.

Even industrial high-tech manufacturing of vehicles and computers is very much affected by ceramic technologies. Last but not least medical science uses high-performance ceramic for manufacturing medical instruments and ceramic implants.

On the other hand, a new evaluation of material and production within artistic ceramics took place in the middle of the last century: potters, painters, sculptors, artisans and

artists discussed and questioned the restrictions of the material “ceramic” per se. This movement was called “dematerialization” of the specialist fields.

Interdisciplinary degree programmes at art academies enabled the exchange amongst traditionally material-restricted specialist areas e.g. for wood, clay, metal and plastic. Felt, hair, skin, bones, bodily fluids, ash, oil and margarine etc. became “ingredients” in the minds of makers as well as in the minds of viewers/buyers and collectors.

Experimental work took place joining paper, metal, nut shells, pine cones, polystyrene, polyester fibres, wire, fabric or leaves, buds and twigs as additions to clay/porcelain.

There are crocheted objects made of porcelain, clay objects that look like they are made of leather, nailed objects, objects to look like wood, objects embellished with wood, embroidered and melted objects, bejewelled objects. And last but not least there are special mouldable compounds containing a high percentage of silver, gold and platinum, clay mixes which are often considered to be rather “cheap”.

The artistic world has achieved spectacular results through in-depth involvement with MIXED MEDIA.

## Exhibition concept

The Keramikmuseum, a member of the Training and Research Centre for ceramics in Höhr-Grenzhausen, and the Nassauische Sparkasse intend to show the promising possibilities of the “simple” raw material, clay, in a broad and innovative way through an accompanying exhibition of the objects selected by the jury.

In 2010 the international competition 7th Nassauische Sparkasse Talent Award for Ceramics, will once again focus on “art”

within ceramics. The Talent Award is to be a dedicated forum for leading-edge modern ceramics.

The Nassauische Sparkasse Talent Award for Ceramics places no restrictions on artists concerning topic and artistic ceramic realisation. Room layout at the Keramikmuseum should be taken into consideration. The museum is responsible for the exhibition concept in consultation with the jury.

## Participation

All artists working with ceramic/porcelain are eligible to participate in the competition. Two pieces of work may be submitted. Work submitted must have been executed by the artist her/himself, must not be older than 3 years and must not have been exhibited anywhere else. The work should not have been commended or have won an award in any other competition.

Ideas, photographs, videos or sketches (max. 2 MB) giving a comprehensible impression of the planned piece of work in mixed media technique should be submitted. Presentation in the museum and the realization of the presentation should be considered.

## Prizes

The judges will select two pieces worthy of the prize from the short list (no age limit), each will be awarded 4,000 Euro.

Two further pieces from young ceramicists under 35 years old will be chosen in a separate selection process. One of which will be awarded 4,000 Euro. The second prize will be awarded in the form of a scholarship for 4,000 Euro. This prize is to demonstrate an interest in promoting younger artists.

The award ceremony and announcement on the selected work(s) will take place during the exhibition opening ceremony.

## Panel of judges

Evaluation and prize-giving will be carried out by one of the five members on the panel of judges appointed by the Nassauische Sparkasse. The judges's consultation is not open to the public. The judges's decision on prize-winners is to be set down in writing. The decision of the judges is final.

Ceramics  
**Jindra Viková**  
Czech Republic

Art History/Ceramic/Painting  
**Annette Ody**  
Germany

Modern Ceramics  
**Franco Bertoni**  
Italy

Mixed Media/Glass  
**Jörg Zimmermann**  
Germany

For the Nassauische Sparkasse  
**Rainer Pribbernow**  
Wiesbaden

## Dates

Submission of photos/sketched documents (also as online form/CD or by post) for pre-judging at Keramikmuseum Westerwald.

Submission deadline:  
17 January 2010

Submission of objects:  
on request by jury

Exhibition opening and award ceremony:  
17 September 2010, 7 p.m. at the  
Keramikmuseum Westerwald

Duration of exhibition:  
until the end of January 2011

Nassauische Sparkasse guarantees that all exhibits participating in the competition will be insured to the retail price stated by the artist, starting from hand-over at the Keramikmuseum Westerwald until the beginning of March 2011 at the latest.

Transport of exhibits to and from the exhibition is effected at the expense and risk of the entrant.

Any claims for damages from the entrant against third parties must be made by the entrant her/himself.

## Imaging and publication

Taking photographs of the exhibition objects for illustration purposes must be allowed free of charge and without reservation. The participant agrees to her/his work being published by Nassauische Sparkasse or by a third party commissioned by the Nassauische Sparkasse. This is in particular also valid for publication on the internet.

## Competition terms and conditions

By registering for the competition, the entrant agrees to the above mentioned rules.

## Organiser/ location

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In cooperation with the Keramikmuseum  
Westerwald and Museen im Westerwald  
GmbH