CLAY CENTER *of* NEW ORLEANS

Creep Show 2026
September 24 – October 30, 2026
Juried by Tracey Bellina-Milazzo

Clay Center of New Orleans
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Call for Entries

It's baaaaaack…
The Clay Center of New Orleans seeks applicants for the 2026 installment of "Creep Show," our annual juried group exhibition of ceramic works that can be described as cutely creepy through to downright terrifying. Open to ceramic vessels, sculptures, and wall-mounted works, this exhibition will be on display September 24 – October 30, 2026, in the Clay Center's gallery.

About the Juror

Tracey Bellina-Milazzo is a New Orleans-based artist, cultural advocate, and museum professional. Tracey received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Louisiana State University in 2004 and began a career in graphic design and marketing shortly thereafter.

In 2007, she co-founded one of New Orleans' most recognizable summer traditions — *San Fermín in Nueva Orleans* — a playful twist on the famed Running of the Bulls festival in Pamplona, Spain. Tracey was instrumental in developing the festival's visual identity and signature concept of inviting roller derby athletes to replace the bulls. The event has since grown into a nationally recognized cultural celebration that draws thousands of participants from around the globe each year and pays homage to New Orleans' rich Spanish history.

As an artist, Tracey works across multiple media, including mixed-media and ceramics. Her passion for pottery led to a collaboration with ceramic artist Michelle Swafford, and together they co-founded the Clay Center of New Orleans in 2018. Since then, Tracey has overseen the Clay Center's gallery operations, exhibition installations, marketing, and the fundraising initiatives that support the organization's mission to advance ceramic arts both in New Orleans and beyond. The first "Creep Show" exhibition was her idea, and it was so popular and well-received that it became an annual show.

In 2025, Tracey was hired as the Operations & Communications Manager for Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University — an institution renowned for Newcomb Pottery. When she's not working, festingß, parading, or running around town with her dogs, Tracey can be found in her home studio, sculpting with clay or crafting overly elaborate headdresses for Mardi Gras. Her artistic style is sculptural, whimsical, and rarely functional.

Eligibility

- This exhibition is open to any ceramic vessels, sculptures or wall-mounted works that can be described as cutely creepy through to downright terrifying.
- All submitted pieces must be original artworks made by the applicant within the last two years that have not been previously exhibited at the Clay Center gallery.
- All submitted pieces must be for sale.
- Mixed-media pieces are eligible, but they must be at least 75% ceramic material.
- Crated or boxed works must be able to pass through a standard 36" doorframe, and must not exceed 50 lbs.

Submission Requirements

- Entry fee: $30 for three (3) entries; a set of pieces may be submitted as a single entry. Submitting alternative views or detail shots of individual entries is highly encouraged!
- All entries must be submitted through the "Call for Entries" section of www.nolaclay.org. You will need to use your existing EntryThingy account or register for an EntryThingy account in order to apply. There is no cost to register for an EntryThingy account.

Calendar

- Submission deadline: July 15, 2026
- Notifications begin: July 27, 2026
- Shipping window: August 10-28, 2026
- Exhibition on display: September 24 – October 30, 2026
- Return shipments begin: November 9, 2026

Shipping and Delivery of Accepted Pieces

- Artists are responsible for the transportation or shipment of selected artworks to the exhibition venue.
- Artists are responsible for all shipping, delivery and insurance costs for accepted artworks to and from the exhibition venue.
- All accepted entries must be in sturdy, reusable packaging such as boxes or crates, even those that are hand-delivered. Artists should follow standard double-boxing procedures for shipping fragile work.
- Artists must include a prepaid return shipment label with their artwork shipment.
- The Clay Center is not liable for any damage or loss incurred in transit.
- Any claims on shipping damage must be reported by the artist to the carrier upon receipt. Artists must retain all original packing materials for inspection by the carrier until the claim is resolved.
- Crated or boxed works must be able to pass through a standard single doorway.
- Settlement for any artworks damaged in transit will be the responsibility of the artist and the carrier.
- All works must be shipped by the specified shipment deadline, or they may be excluded from the exhibition.
- Artists agree to coordinate any hand-delivery and/or hand-pickup of artworks with the exhibitions department of the Clay Center.

- Artwork left at the gallery for more than 90 days following the closing of the exhibition will become the property of the Clay Center.

Terms and Conditions

- The Clay Center of New Orleans reserves the right to exclude any incomplete or incorrect submissions from the jury process.
- The Clay Center of New Orleans reserves the right to exclude from exhibition any works that arrive at the venue in unstable or damaged condition, or that differ from the submitted entry images or information.
- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- Accepted artwork may not be withdrawn prior to the closing date of the exhibition.
- Artists agree to allow the Clay Center of New Orleans to use images of their artwork in promotional materials.

Sales of Artwork

- Artwork accepted for the exhibition must be for sale.
- If an artist's work is sold, the Clay Center will receive a 50% commission of the retail price, which is to be set by the artist through their EntryThingy application.
- Commission payments will be sent via mailed check to the address on the artist's EntryThingy application. Please make sure your address is current in your EntryThingy account.