



**Biennale of  
Contemporary  
Ceramics  
Rhodes 2026**

## ***Where the Day Starts***

**Under the Auspices of  
Ministry of Culture,  
Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports &  
National Greek Tourism Organisation**



Meriem Chabani x Gorbon Ceramics, *A House Awaits*, 2026, glazed brick, 15 x 15 m. Courtesy of the artist and Gorbon Ceramics. Supported by Institut Français de Grèce.

### **Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics 2026 positions Rhodes as an international hub for contemporary ceramics**

**Title:** *Where the Day Starts*

**Duration:** 6 June – 31 October 2026

**Opening:** 5 June 2026, 19:00

**Location:** Medieval City of Rhodes

**Organized by:** Big Blue Dot | Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics

The Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics (BCK) 2026 returns for its second edition under the title “*Where the Day Starts*”, transforming the Medieval City of Rhodes into

an international meeting point for contemporary ceramic art from 6 June to 31 October 2026. The opening will take place on Friday, 5 June at 19:00, at the Archaeological Museum of Rhodes, marking the beginning of a three-day programme of events including curator-led tours, talks, site-specific performances and guided walks throughout the Medieval City. In collaboration with the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Dodecanese, BCK unfolds across five emblematic and historical venues, shaping for the visitor an experience of exploration, a map within the map of the Medieval City.

Curated by Stamatia Dimitrakopoulos (GR), Loukia Thomopoulou (GR) and Anissa Touati (FR), BCK 2026 highlights contemporary ceramics as a dynamic and evolving medium of artistic expression, as well as a meaningful vehicle for intercultural dialogue across the Mediterranean. Taking Rhodes, at the easternmost edge of Greece, as its point of reference, and drawing from its UNESCO World Heritage Medieval City, the Biennale engages with a place where - according to the ancient Greek mythology- "*the day begins*". It draws upon the island's light, geography and layered historical fabric to shape a coherent curatorial framework that connects past and present.

The Sun, as a universal symbol of life and transformation, runs through this year's Biennale as a central narrative thread, illuminating the multiple dimensions of ceramic practice and positioning Rhodes as a place where history, light and contemporary creation coexist.

This year's edition brings together 42 artists from 18 countries, forming a polyphonic field of contemporary practices and artistic approaches. Participating artists include:

Etel Adnan (LB), Myrsini Alexandridi (GR), Darien Arikoski-Johnson (US), Elysia Athanatos (CY), Leonardo Bartolini (IT), Elina Belou (FR), Emmanouil Bonis (GR), Robert Brambora (DE), Jorge Cabieses-Valdes (CL), Meriem Chabani - Gorbon Ceramics (DZ), Chous Ceramics (GR), Katya Desnenko (UA), Mauro Fariñas (ES), Malek Gnaoui (TN), Kyriaki Goni (GR), Luke Edward Hall (GB), Dionysis Kavallieratos (GR), Lynn Kodeih (LB), Tülay Kulbay (SE), Vasiliki Kyriaki (GR), Anne Kwasner (AU), Lucile Littot (FR), Lilian Lykiardopoulou (GR), Atalanti Martinou (GR), Fatima Mohisen (PS), Asunción Molinos Gordo (ES), Kostas Neofytou (GR), Ben Wolf Noam (US), Menandros Papadopoulos (GR), Zoë Paul (GB), GianMarco Porru (IT), Myrsini Roumelioti (GR), David Scanavino (US), Terpsichori Savvala (GR), Ayla Tavares (BR), Natalia Triantafylli (GR), Alban Turquois (FR), Lucille Uhlich (FR), Elif Uras (TR), Giorgos Vavatsis (GR), Vuolat (TR) and Zoe Williams (FR).

The selection of artists emerged through an international Open Call that received more than 300 applications, as well as through invitations by the curators, mapping a dynamic coexistence of emerging and established voices in contemporary art.



Etel Adnan, *Parmi les tilleuls*, 2021, Ceramic, 163,7 x 208,4 cm

The international jury of BCK 2026 consists of the three curators, alongside: Cristina Anglada, Independent Art Curator and Writer (ES), Florian Dauget Bresson, Contemporary Ceramics Curator and Art Dealer (FR), Karina El Helou, Director of the Sursock Museum (LB), Orhan Gorbon, CEO of Gorbon Tiles and Arts Patron (TR), Stefano Collicelli Cagol, General Director of Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci in Prato (IT), Katerina Gregos, Artistic Director of EMST (GR), Nikos Liaros, Archaeologist and Ceramist (GR) and Theodora Chorafa, Ceramist and Educator (GR), forming a multidisciplinary body with a strong presence in contemporary art, curatorial practice and ceramics.

The Central Exhibition unfolds across a network of five emblematic archaeological and historical sites within the Medieval City of Rhodes, transforming the city into a unified exhibition environment and inviting visitors to embark on a journey of discovery through its urban fabric. These include the Armoury De Milly, Decorative Arts Collection of Rhodes, Our Lady of the Castle, Archaeological Museum of Rhodes, Kleovoulou Square - Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes.

In parallel, BCK 2026 features an extensive public programme running throughout the five-month duration of the Biennale. This includes two artist residencies, three performances, seven lectures and presentations, one premiere film screening, two documentary screenings, three workshops, ten educational programmes for school students, university students and educators, four guided tours within the Medieval City, ten curated exhibition tours, as well as participatory activities for the wider public.

The parallel programme and the satellite exhibitions take place at the Auberge de France (in collaboration with the Institut français de Grèce), at the Inn of England (in collaboration with the Association for the Protection of Architectural and Cultural

Heritage of Rhodes), at the Municipal Theatre of Rhodes (in collaboration with the Rhodes E. & M. Stamatiou Scholarship Foundation and the Cultural Organisation of the Municipality of Rhodes), at the University of the Aegean, and at the ceramic studios “Bonis” and “Haravgi”.

Alongside the exhibition, BCK 2026 presents an extensive public programme spanning the five months of the Biennale, including 2 artist residencies, 3 performances, 7 talks and presentations, 3 documentary screenings, 3 workshops, 10 educational programmes for students and educators, 4 guided walks in the Medieval City, 10 curated exhibition tours and participatory activities for the wider public.

Within the framework of the Biennale, awards are presented recognising contributions to contemporary ceramic practice, with an emphasis on artistic research, innovation and engagement with the contemporary cultural context. In recognition of their overall contribution, artists Kostas Neofytou from Rhodes and Menandros Papadopoulos from Athens are also honoured.



Elif Uras, *The Great Mother*, 2025, materials, dimensions. Photo by Zeynep Firat. Courtesy of the artist and GALERIST. Supported by Saha Demegi and GALERIST.

BCK 2026 builds on the inaugural edition held in 2024 in Santorini, which achieved notable success, attracting tens of thousands of visitors and securing the support of leading institutional and private partners, thereby highlighting the Biennale’s potential as an emerging international platform in the field of contemporary art. The Biennale adopts a nomadic format, taking place biennially on a different Greek island, fostering a dynamic dialogue between contemporary artistic practice and the distinct local identity of each host location.

With Rhodes as its starting point and the Mediterranean as its horizon, the Biennale of Contemporary Ceramics 2026 operates as an open platform for the exchange of ideas, practices and cultural narratives, where contemporary ceramics emerge as a living medium that connects places, histories and communities under a shared Mediterranean light.

**Organised by**

BigBlueDot

**Co - Organised by**

Region of South Aegean

Municipality of Rhodes

**Under the auspices and the financial support of**

Ministry of Culture

**Under the auspices of**

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