Procedures for Selection to Selected Membership

Craft Potters Association of Great Britain

The aim of the CPA is to promote and support the creation of high quality ceramics. Applicants for Selected Membership are expected to be actively making work for exhibition and / or sale and should have been working professionally for a minimum of 3-5 years. Selection is carried out by the CPA Council and takes place once a year, as outlined below.

Selection Criteria

All applications are assessed using the following criteria:

Ceramic material knowledge and technical skills	Applicants must show a good understanding of the ceramic materials they use, making appropriate, thoughtful choices. They must demonstrate strong technical skills in their chosen techniques.
Quality of work	The work should be of a consistently high standard, fully developed, and show integrity. Ceramic materials must make up the majority of the work, and should other materials be included, they should be chosen sensitively and be appropriate to the concept.
Strong personal voice	The work should be clearly recognisable as the applicant's own and not derivative.
Originality	The work must be original in concept and show creativity, with a clear relationship between form and surface. Where the work is functional, it must be fit for purpose.
Coherent Practice	Applicants should demonstrate, through their application as a whole, that they have coherent and sustained practice with a clear sense of direction, indicating the capacity to continue contributing meaningfully to the field of contemporary ceramics.
Suitability	The Council will assess whether an applicant's work can be effectively represented through the Association's activities, taking into account its quality, innovation, and suitability for exhibition and sale.

<u>Election to Selected Membership</u> is a two stage process as outlined below:-

Stage 1 - Application Deadline May
Applicants must submit a completed application form including the following:

1. **Contact information**
   Mailing address, telephone number, and email address.

2. **Online presence**
   A current website and or relevant social media accounts.

3. **Artist statement**
   A brief statement describing the work and its influences (maximum 250 words).

4. **Technical notes**
   A description of how the work is made, including techniques, materials used, and firing temperatures (maximum 150 words).

5. **Scale and pricing**
   Applicants are asked to provide an indicative range of dimensions for their work and a broad retail price range. This information is collected for contextual purposes and does not form part of the assessment of artistic quality.

6. **Images of work**
   - Six high-quality digital images in JPEG format (300 dpi, with a maximum image size of 1920 pixels on the longest edge).
   - All files must be clearly labelled and numbered to match the image numbers on the application form (for example, SmithJohn_1.jpg).
   - Images should be photographed against a neutral background and cropped so the work is clearly visible.

7. **Curriculum vitae (CV)**
   A current CV including relevant details of education and training, exhibitions, employment, stockists, publications or press, commissions, public collections, and awards.

Application fee
An administration fee of £40 must be paid with each application. This fee is non-refundable.

Applications are circulated to all Council members, who individually assess the materials provided and record a Yes or No decision against the selection criteria set out above. Applicants who receive Yes votes from at least 60% of Council members are invited to progress to Stage 2.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of Stage 1 in June each year.
The Council's decision is final. Due to limited resources and increasing number of applications, it is not possible to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Stage 2 Submission: September (location alternates annually between London and York)
Applicants who are successful at Stage 1 are invited to submit six pieces of work for Stage 2 assessment. All work submitted must have been made within the previous eighteen months of the Stage 2 submission date.

Stage 2 submission takes place in September each year at a single location, alternating annually between London and York. The location for each year will be confirmed in advance.

Applicants are responsible for making their own arrangements for the delivery and collection of their work for the Stage 2 selection meeting. Where an applicant is unable to attend in person, delivery and collection may be arranged through a third party, subject to prior agreement with the Membership Chair. Requests to defer assessment to the following year will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Selection is made by Council members, who assess the work and supporting materials against the selection criteria set out above. Each applicant is scored out of 5 for each of the 6 criteria, and successful applicants must score at least 3 in each category.

Applicants will be notified of the Council's decision within three weeks of the scheduled Stage 2 selection meeting. The Council's decision is final.

Individual feedback for unsuccessful applicants at Stage 2 is available on request.

Benefits of Selected Membership

1. Professional Recognition

Selected Membership of CPA is an internationally recognised professional standard in ceramics studio practice. Selected Members may identify themselves publicly as a Selected Member of the Craft Potters Association. And use the letters **SMCPA** as a post-nominal.

CPA provides digital assets and guidance, including logos and suggested wording, that members may use on websites, CVs, exhibition materials and promotional content to indicate that their work has been elected through the CPA's peer review selection process. These are emailed to members upon being made a Selected Member of the CPA.

2. Website Listing

Selected Members receive a profile listing on the CPA website.

3. Exhibition Opportunities with Contemporary Ceramics

The exhibition programme at Contemporary Ceramics includes an annual exhibition for new Selected Members.

Thereafter, the gallery represents work by around 200 Selected Members, with over 100 shown online, as well as the opportunity to participate in partnerships and pop-ups. Displays are chosen and managed carefully, balancing quality, diversity and sales potential, and in relation to the wider exhibition programme. Not all work can be shown for extended periods, and the gallery may occasionally request specific work where there is a curatorial or sales reason.

4 Mentorship & Professional Development

Selected Members may apply to become a paid participant in the CPA Mentorship Scheme.

5. Public and Product Liability Insurance

Selected Members are automatically covered by £5,000,000 Public and Product Liability Insurance for activities in the UK. Further details are available on the CPA website. Insurance is only available to members residing permanently in the UK. public and product liability insurance is subject to the policy terms and eligibility requirements, as stated on the website.

6. Governance and Voting Rights

Selected Members are full members of the CPA and, as shareholders, are entitled to vote in Council elections and to stand for election to the Council.

7. CPA fairs

Selected Members are encouraged to apply for stands at CPA-run events, including Ceramic Art London, York Ceramics Fair and Oxford Ceramics Fair. Exhibitors are selected annually through a juried application process. Selected Members form a significant proportion of exhibitors, and the fairs provide an important platform for members to present their work to collectors, galleries and the wider public.

Selected Members receive a £75 net discount on stand fees

Exhibiting at CPA fairs is subject to the usual selection process.

8.. Photography

Up to three free high-resolution photographs of members' pre-existing work from The Gallery Archive (available from January 2027).

9. Progression

After a period of 7 years, Selected Members are eligible to be nominated to be awarded a CPA Fellowship by their peers

Terms and Conditions of Selected Membership

1. Selection decisions

The selection of new Selected Members is a core responsibility of the CPA Council, who are themselves Selected Members or Fellows of the CPA. Decisions are made in accordance with the selection process and criteria set out above, and the Council's decision is final.

2. Reapplying after an unsuccessful application

Applicants who are unsuccessful may reapply after a period of two years from the date of the selection meeting. Any reapplication must include new images for consideration at Stage 1.

3. Eligibility and residence

Applicants for Selected Membership must be resident in the United Kingdom or be UK citizens living abroad. Members who move abroad after being elected may retain their membership.

4. Membership fees

The annual Selected Membership fee is currently £120, plus a one-off £1 share fee on joining.

5. Renewal

Membership is renewable annually and must be continuous for benefits to apply. Members whose subscriptions are in arrears are not entitled to membership benefits. Fees may be paid as a single annual payment or by Direct Debit at £10 per month. Membership will be deemed to have lapsed if payment is not received within three months of the renewal date.

6. Lapsed Membership

Selected Members whose membership has lapsed and who wish to rejoin must apply again through the normal application process. If membership has lapsed, those members are not entitled to list themselves as Selected Members or Fellows of the CPA. If citing membership in these circumstances past members should list the year/s in which they were a Selected Member.