

François Grenier

Press Kit



François Grenier Selected for

Fusion Fireworks 2025 Touring Exhibition

Ceramic artist François Grenier has been selected for *Fireworks 2025*, Fusion's prestigious biennial exhibition showcasing outstanding Canadian clay and glass artists. Organized by FUSION: The Ontario Clay and Glass Association, *Fireworks* is known for spotlighting excellence, innovation, and conceptual depth in contemporary ceramics and glass. The juried show opens at **The Great Lakes Museum, Kingston, ON on May 30**, before touring venues across Ontario throughout 2025.

Grenier's work, known for rejecting utility in favour of sculptural form and emotionally charged surfaces he calls "skins," brings a bold and critical voice to the exhibition. His inclusion affirms his rising influence in the Canadian contemporary ceramics scene.

For full tour details and updates, visit www.clayandglass.on.ca/fireworks2025.



François Grenier – *Cabossé 38*

Artist Statement

(288 words)

I'm an emerging ceramic artist who works in abstract and figurative sculpture. Clay responds to my vision with immediacy and depth. It's a medium that demands attention—its plasticity, resistance, and responsiveness to touch keep me fully engaged. I'm especially drawn to the interplay of form and texture, where surface becomes a language in itself.

My practice is informed by other artists across many disciplines, but also social justice, and the human condition. My influences span across visual languages and disciplines. The gestural energy of Abstract Expressionism resonates deeply, but I also find clarity and structure in geometry, which fuels my appreciation for geometric abstraction. This duality—between the expressive and the precise—drives much of my formal and conceptual exploration.

Material research is a necessary part of my work. I investigate ceramic surface treatment through experimental methods, developing innovative surfaces that push aesthetic boundaries. I'm invested in the chemistry and behavior of raw materials, and how their manipulation can yield innovative visual and tactile results.

Each piece arises from a layered process—one that blends intuition, research, and conceptual inquiry. My work often reflects intersectionality, borrowing from painting and design. I strive to remain responsive to the specific needs of each project, allowing the form to emerge from an evolving set of ideas and influences.

My body of work is intentionally eclectic. I see this as a strength—an honest reflection of how varied and complex the world and my life are. Through sculpture, I aim to create objects that are materially rich and visually compelling, and that contribute to a broader dialogue about the role of ceramics within contemporary art making it lean into fine arts and outside of crafts. I want my work to offer a pause, a presence, and perhaps a new way of seeing.

(184 words)

I'm an emerging ceramic artist working in abstract and figurative sculpture. Clay is responsive, tactile, and demanding—it engages me on both a physical and conceptual level. I'm drawn to the tension between form and surface, and to the way texture can speak its own language.

My practice is shaped by other artists across many disciplines, but also social justice, and the human condition. The gestural energy of Abstract Expressionism deeply resonates with me, as does the controlled clarity found in geometric abstraction. Geometry often anchors my work, offering a structured balance to my more intuitive marks and gestures.

Research into material behavior is a necessary part of my process. I develop original surface treatments and experiment with raw ceramic materials to push visual limits. Each piece emerges from a space of intersectionality, informed by art history, architecture, science, and literature.

My body of work is eclectic by design. I see this variety not as inconsistency, but as a reflection of an engaged, inquisitive practice. My goal is to create work that is materially rich, visually compelling, and in conversation with contemporary fine art.

(50 words)

I am a ceramic artist working in abstract and figurative sculpture. My practice investigates the interplay of form, texture, and material research, often challenging conventional boundaries of the medium. Influenced by both Abstract Expressionism and geometric abstraction, my work reflects an intersectional perspective and a commitment to expanding ceramics' role in contemporary art.

Curriculum Vitae + Exhibitions

Education

Self-directed, and: Pottery and ceramics classes at the Roundhouse Cultural Centre, Vancouver, BC

Exhibitions

Solo show

- Trimorphism- ARTspace – Chatham, Ontario – June 14 to September 2, 2023

Selected Group shows

- Fusion Fireworks 2023 – juried travelling group show – May 30th to November 9th, 2025
- Eye for Art 2024 – juried group show – Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, Ontario, November 18, 2024, to January 14, 2025
- Fusion Fireworks 2023 – juried travelling group show – February 27 to November 1, 2023
- Emergence – as one of the three finalist of the Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics 2023, exhibiting along side the two other finalists – The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery – Waterloo, ON – May 20 to September 17, 2023
- Ontario Juried Exhibition 2019 – juried group show – Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, ON – October 25, 2019 - January 5, 2020.
- Fuel – group show (5 artists invitational) – Thames Art Gallery, Chatham, ON – August 30th to October 20th, 2019

Awards

- Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics 2023 finalist

In the Media

Radio (notable)

Radio Canada – show: À échelle humaine – [Interview](#) – June 17th, 2023

Newspapers (notable)

[Chatham Daily News](#) (frontispiece) – February 21st, 2023 – interview – making it as a finalist for the [Winifred Shantz Award for Ceramics 2023](#)

Images



François Grenier – photo by Scott Taylor

Image Portfolio



Photo by Isabelle Milot

Composition in Four Parts
2025
Ceramic, steel
49H x 36W x 5D"



Photo by the artist

Hegemony – Les Imbéciles 2 (sample)

2025

Ceramic

Heads are 6 inches high on average



Photo by Isabelle Milot

The Horns

2022

Ceramic, oxides crusts, wire, hemp rope

72L x 32 W x 13H"



Photo by the artist

Trimorphism
2023
Ceramic, steel
25W x 7H x 6D feet



Photo by the artist

Cabossé 40
2024
Ceramic
21W x 15H x 5.5D"



Photo by the artist

Cabossé 20
2022
Ceramic
11W x 15H x 4D"



Cabossé 20 detail



Cabossé 2
2022
Ceramic
15H x 7.5W x 3.5D"



Cabossé 2 detail

Contact

<https://www.francoisgrenierartist.com/>



[@francoisgrenierceramics](https://www.instagram.com/francoisgrenierceramics)



<https://www.facebook.com/francois.grenier.946>



<https://www.etsy.com/shop/FrancoisCeramics?ref=dashboard-header>