

”In this world, I represent slowness
- making ceramics is time-consuming
and demands extraordinary patience.”

— Outi Leinonen, member of Pot Viapori ry



Ceramic Studio Pot Viapori

Pot Viapori ry is a registered ceramics association founded in 1972 by ceramists, for ceramists. It is one of the oldest ceramics art associations in Finland and plays an important role in the field of Finnish ceramic art. From the very beginning, its mission has been defined as advancing Finnish ceramic art and craft, and supporting the work of professional ceramicists both domestically and internationally.

The association's heart is the ceramic studio located in the historic Suomenlinna Sea Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Studio offers the members well-equipped, light-filled private workspaces as well as an opportunity for rich collegial exchange and collaboration in the common spaces.

Pot Viapori organises a major group exhibition every five years. Most recently, in 2022, the association celebrated its 50th anniversary with two exhibitions, a ceramic art seminar and gala and a publication about Pot Viapori, marking five decades of Finnish ceramic art.

The current artist members working at the studio are visual artist Aimo Katajamäki; ceramic artist and sculptor Saana Murtti; and ceramists Johanna Ojanen, Soile Paasonen, and Tiina Tarvainen. The studio is also currently used as a working space by textile artist Salla Pyykkönen.



The Japan residency program

Pot Viapori is delighted to be part of the residency project for Japanese ceramic artists. Cultural exchange between ceramists is close to our heart, and we warmly welcome the artist selected to work with us.

We offer the resident artist a fully equipped ceramic studio, the expertise of our members, and friendly support with the everyday practicalities of settling into life in Suomenlinna and Helsinki. One of our artists Soile Paasonen has been working in Japan and can help with applicants native language if needed.

The Pot Viapori studio is a generous space where each artist has their own dedicated area alongside shared communal spaces. The resident artist is no exception — they will be provided with a private working space of approximately 15 m², equipped with a large worktable. Studio is conveniently two minutes walk from the actual residence house.

The studio offers five kilns (including a 5l test kiln, two small kilns 120l, one medium 160l, and one large kiln500l), all firing up to 1300C, as well as two throwing wheels, clay presses, a glazing cabinet, an extruder, and a broad selection of hand tools. The focus of the studio is primarily on hand-built ceramics, with limited mold-making facilities available on request.