

## FLIK - Festival of pottery and ceramics

Many centuries passed through Petrinja, numerous wars, misfortunes and natural disasters, and the phenomenon of pottery, defying everything, survives and amazingly, like a phoenix it recovers, revives and develops again. So, in 2021, through combined public, private and civil entrepreneurship, FLIK Festival of pottery and ceramics project was launched and organized by Tourism Board of the City of Petrinja, Lončarstvo Val and the Open Ceramics Studio ran by GRAK Association, under the patronage of the City of Petrinja and the Ministry of Culture and Media.

By this Festival of pottery and ceramics, the organizers want to use join forces in order to contribute to the revitalization of pottery in Petrinja, and thanks to great interest of our citizens and their guests, and activities of everyone involved, this continues the centuries-old tradition of pottery, which is now experiencing its resurgence. We want to be a creative and sustainable community that promotes tradition as well as excellence in pottery and ceramic art.



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## ABOUT PETRINJA AND POTTERY

In Petrinja, the tradition of pottery and ceramics is very strong, long and rich so that Petrinja was widely known for its potters and diverse clay products. Thanks to the abundance of very high quality red-toned clay in the area along the Kupa River (especially in Stanci and Čret locations) and skilled craftsmen, pottery has been for centuries the most widespread trade, and starting with 1775, Petrinja's potters were gathered in a pottery guild. Patron Saint of Petrinja's pottery guild was St. Lawrence, therefore he was featured on one side of the guild society flag, while the other side featured Stucka (baked clay jug for various purposes). Pottery in Petrinja reached its developmental culmination around 1836, when 59 artisan potters operated in the town.

Pottery was practiced by families passing on their own knowledge from generation to generation so that all family members were involved in production. One of the last old Petrinja's pottery families is the family of Matej Stanešić, still working in his Stucka workshop. Stucka has been a symbol of Petrinja's pottery ever since the 18th century, and all visitors to Petrinja are clearly welcomed by two-meter Stuckas that adorn the entrances to the town. The role of heir to the pottery trade is now assumed by Valentino Valent together with his wife Lana. Apart from them, pottery and ceramics are now one of the main interests in the lives of Željko Cotić, Vjekoslav Uvalić, Silvio Radošević, academic sculptors Mato Andrić and Ivan Novak, together with more and more people from Petrinja who have fallen in love with pottery and ceramics thanks to numerous organized workshops.



It should be emphasized that the **Association of persons with disabilities of Sisak-Moslavina County** and the GRAK Association were implementing the project "Glinena priča" back in 2017 with the aim of revitalizing pottery and ceramic art in Petrinja. GRAK Association later cooperated with Lončarstvo Val and together organized further numerous workshops for all ages. Through various projects, they acquired the necessary equipment and conducted training for 180 people who were developing knowledge and skills in making modern ceramics, on the foundations of traditional pottery making process. What was maintained in everything they did was a joyful, cordial and friendly experience in making pottery products that has been nurtured in Petrinja for centuries.

**Banovina Heritage Interpretation Centre** in cooperation with the Conservation Department of the Ministry of culture and media in Sisak registered the Native Collection of the Bešlić family from Petrinja. This collection is only the second native collection in the Sisak-Moslavina County to be entered in the Register of cultural assets of the Republic of Croatia. Petrinja's pottery art is currently in a phase of implementation of protection as intangible cultural heritage at the Ministry of Culture and Media.

