Michio Sugiyama was born in Michigan, United States in 1960.

He graduated from the Ceramic Dept. Hiyoshigaoka Art and Crafts High School in Kyoto in 1979.

He has BA from the Osaka University of Arts in 1984, and MFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland California, USA in 1986.

After finishing MFA, he moved to Montana to attend the AIR at the Archie Bray Foundation. Michio Sugiyama stayed at the Archie Bray Foundation from 1986 to 1989 as a residency artist. In 1989, he came back to Japan and started to work at the Preparation Office of the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park in the Shiga- Pref. Government.

Since then he has been organizing and operating the Artist in Residency at the Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park.

For last few years he has been organizing series of the symposium related to the Operation of the Artist in Residency and Cultural Administration.

He retired from the fulltime position of the SCCP in 2020, and now he is an Advisor for the Artists in Residency Program at SCCP.

Also in 2018 he has established a private Rental Ceramic Studio, in Shigaraki named "Shigaraki Share Studio" and now he is the Director of the Institute of the Shigaraki Share Studio.

Member of the IAC. Member of the Japan Ceramic Society.