



Short Bio.

Varda Yatom is an internationally renowned sculptor.

Varda has had more than 20 solo museum exhibitions and more than 70 group shows in New Zealand, Germany, Turkey, Japan the United States and Israel.

In 1999, following her recognition by an international jury of artists as one of the 10 best contemporary ceramic artists in the world, she was invited to participate in the exhibition "Top Artists of the World" at the International Museum of Ceramic Art in Faenza Italy.

Her work is found in many public, corporate and private collections throughout Europe, Israel and the United States. A short list of these collections includes: The Hetjert International Museum, Düsseldorf, Germany; The International Museum of Ceramics, Skalskor, Denmark; The Open Art Museum, Tefen, Israel; The Arad Art Museum, Israel.

In the United States, her work is also in the collections of Laguna Beach Art Museum, Long Beach University in Long Beach California and Alfred University in Alfred, New York.

Varda Yatom's work was chosen to represent Contemporary Israeli Art in a solo show at Hetjert International Ceramics Museum in Düsseldorf, Germany. The Israeli Department of Culture has awarded Varda the much Coveted prize, the "Israeli Artist Award" for her valuable and prolific work.

She was invited to be a resident guest artist at the Skalskor Art Center, Denmark, the Long Beach University in Long Beach California and is currently Artist-in-Residence at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Oregon.

Her work has been published and included in a number of Art books.

Many articles have been written about her pieces in magazines and newspapers in Australia, Italy, France, Germany, New Zealand and the United States.

Varda lives and works on Kibbutz Sasa in northern Israel.



ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a Hebrew speaking, Israeli Jewish woman. My parents lost most of their relatives in the Holocaust.

For most of my life I have lived on a Kibbutz, a community dedicated to a collective and cooperative search for the discernment and practice of justice.

I am the mother of five sons, all required to serve in our national army. My work explores the relation between personal identity and culture; between the given references of symbol and meaning, and moral values. It is always to be remembered that the Holocaust was perpetrated by a people of Culture.

The ancient patterns of history embedded within Hebrew provide the framework within which I think about my art. For example, in Hebrew the word Adam means 'Human Being' and Adama means 'Earth'. I seek to reveal how an object becomes meaningful within its cultural context. In Hebrew each symbol carries meanings and associations from biblical times, some as far back as the very origins of symbolic language, all the way to those of contemporary life.

The Jewish tradition is deeply rooted in texts, this is a verbal culture of intense appreciation for the depths of language.

In my work I am interested in bringing to presence synonyms that carry original meanings of human experience.

From a technical perspective, process and concept have played the dominant role in my work.

The process of physical creation is intrinsic to my work, it is not separate from the result. I seek to display the patterns of material language as part of the vocabulary of the piece. In my conceptual understanding of my work, I resist traditional aesthetic norms. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, my tradition forbids figurative art. Secondly, and most importantly, my awareness that the Holocaust was crafted by a people of very high aesthetic standards.

This raises questions for me about the connection between moral and aesthetic values. Human behavior is based on the meanings of culture and morality: and the tension between the two. I feel, always, the dilemmas of life in the Middle East. My internal struggles between the fact of my very existence, and the standards of justice and morality that I strive for greatly inform my artwork. One theme I try to portray is how the individual can be manipulated by the symbols of culture into betraying his moral center; that moral values themselves can be manipulated by the crowd. My sculptures employ organizational groupings which represent familiar patterns of human ceremony. At first glance, these may seem familiar, but the work invites an interaction that reveals layers of meanings and interpretations that are hidden beneath the familiar.

For example, The Hunters are influenced by hunters in India. These hunters are disguised in a cloth bag with small openings for eyes and nose. In my interpretation, the opening reveals only the mouths. They have need but no sight.

The camouflage material evokes aggression; yet at the same time the hunters are being suffocated, caught in an enclosure that threatens life. The relations between survival and aggression and isolation can be seen as a reference to the Middle East.



Solo Exhibitions

- 2003 Human Materials, SHOVHAVA ART GALLERY, Isreal
2002 Wedding Death, KFAR SABA MUNICIPAL ART GALLERY Israel
2001 Childhood Embroidery after Picasso, GALLERY OF CERAMIC DESIGN, Tel Aviv, Israel
2000 Equilibrium, GALLERY OF CERAMIC DESIGN,Tel Aviv, Israel,
1998 Varda Yatom, HETIENS INTERNATIONAL CERAMIC MUSEUM, Dusseldorf, Germany
1997 Zav Cryah , NEGEV ART MUSEUM Be'er Sheva, Israel
1996 Zav Cryah, BEIT KAHANA MUSEUM, Ramat Gan, Israel
Current Situation, TEL HAI ART CENTER, Tel Hai, Israel,
Peckalach, HANIKRA GALLERY, Israel,
The Whole and Parts , ART GALLERY TURKISH STATION Be'er Sheva, Israel
1992 Varda Yatom 1993, LONG BEACH UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY, Long Beach, CA
1991 Varda Yatom, ARAD ART MUSEUM, Arad, Israel,
1990 Varda Yatom New Sculpture, HERZLIYA ART MUSEUM, Herzliya, Israel,
1989 Varda Yatom New Works, BAR DAVID MUSEUM, Bar'am, Israel,
1988 Varda Homecoming , ART GALLERY, Eilon, Israel,
Those are not Migrating Birds, ART GALLERY OT HAMUTZAR, Jerusalem, Israel
1987 MFA Exhibition, HOLMES GALLERY, Alfred University, Alfred NY
1986 Varda Yatom, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, Bloomsberg, PA
Yatom Sculpture, THE KIBBUTZ GALLERY, Tel Aviv, Israel

Professional Honors

- 2004 Guldagergaard Museum of International Ceramic Art
Denmark /Guest Artist
Ashland University. Oregon. USA/ Artist in Residence
2001 International Museum of Ceramic Art Faenza, Italy/
Selected one of the "10 Most Outstanding Ceramic Artists in the World" Exhibition
1999 International Art Center, Cite Paris, France /Guest Artist
1998 Sotheby's Exhibition and Auction, "Ceramics Today", Tel-Aviv, Israel
1996 International Connections, 8th National Ceramics Conference ,
Canbara, Australia/ Honored Guest
American Ceramics Congress , NCECA, New Orleans, LA / Honoree
Long Beach University, Long beach,CA, /Residence Artist

Group Exhibitions

- 2005 Schneider Museum of Art, Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon
"Art Faculty Bienal 2005"
2004 Art Gallery, "Time for Arts". Tel Aviv. "Doll Exhibition".
Museum of International Ceramic Art, Guldagergaard.Skaelskor Denmark, "Culture and Identity"
2003 Art Museum, Ashdod, Bat Yam "Fabrication".
Art Musiums, Arad, Ashdod, Kfar Saba,Tivon,
"Children Games"
Art Gallery, Chankin. Holon. "White Situations"
Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv. "The Second Biennale for Israel Ceramic".
2001 Art Gallery, Meirove Holon. "Childhood World"
Art Gallery, Oranim. College. "Teacher's Exhibition"
Art Gallery, Umm El-Faim"Mashchara"
Trail Temple. Tel Aviv. "Blances"
Art Gallery "Simagallery".. Megadim. "Where is Dobnov?"
Beit-Hagefen, Hifa. "The Holiday of Holidays"
2000 The Art Museums:, Ashdot Jacob, Hazorea, "A Non-Casual Meeting"
Art Gallery, Um El Fachem, "Mythology"
Arts and Science Center, Holon, Israel. "Dreams"
The Art Gallery of Tel Aviv University. "Bonding"
Eretz Israel Museum. Tel-Aviv.The Israeli Biennale for Ceramics
"Clay 2000"
Art Gallery. Oranim College. "Teachers Choose a Student"
"Bait Hgefen" ,Vadi Nis Nas. Haifa. "Children"
1999 Art gallery "Ort Braude", Carmiel. "Two Sisters"
International Ceramic Museum at Faenza, Italy. "Artisti Dal Mondo",
Hon.exhibition to the "10 World Famost Ceramic World Sculptors"
Haifa Municipality Theater, Israel. "Women Artists in Israeli Art",
The Open Art Museum, Tefen, Israel, "Milestones, Sculpture 1948-1998",
Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, USA. "International Contemporary Ceramics, From Igal and Diane Silber Collection",
Art Museum. Israel. "Beit Cahanah", "50 Years of IsraeliCeramic"
1997 Art Museum, Tel Hai. Israel. "Zionioney Haderech"
The Presidents Residence, Jerusalem, Israel "By Virtue of Substance, Israeli Ceramic Sculpture"
1996 Beit Hagefen, Haifa, Israel. "Art at Nis Nas" Valley"
Dizingof Center, Tel Aviv, Israel. "Artists for the Center"
Art Museun, Auckland, New Zealand."Fletcher Challenge Ceramics Award"
National Congress Center, Jerusalem,Israel. "A green stop in the
1995 The Artist Center Art Gallrry, Tel Aviv, Israel. " Culture Price"
1994 National Museum of Modern Art at Kyoto and Tokyo. Japan."Israeli Contempromy Crafts"
Wolf Boyg Gallery, Hanover, Germany. ". Ceramics From Israel"
The Negev Art Museum Be'er Sheva, Israel. "Ceramic Israel", Art Focus
The Open Art Museum, Art Focus, Tefen, Israel. "Israeli Sculpture In Tefen, The Last Deceit"
Ceramic galleries: Los Angeles, New York,U.S.A. "Ceramics Israel"
Art gallery Oranim, Israel. "Teacher Chooses a Student".
Art Museum. "Bar David" Israel. "Group exhibit of artists from galil
1993 Museun "Beit Kahana", Ramat-Gan. "Vessels".
Art Museum, ".Bar David Israel. "Small Format".
Turkish Station Gallery, Be'er Sheva, "Man's Little Acre"
Art Center Gallery, Givat Haviva, Israel. "Man and land"
1992 Rasco Tower, Tel Aviv, Israel. "Art as an idea"
Ceramic Galleries, Berlin, Poland, Turkey. "Israel Ceramic"
Haifa University Art Gallery, Israel. eramic ancient and contemporary"
1991 Jaffa Gallery, "Ceramic from East Germany and ceramic from. Israel"
1990 Heichal Hatarbot, Natania, Israel. "Micol Vachomer".
1989 Art Gallery. Rasco Tower Tel Aviv, Israel. "Sculpture at the Tower"
Tivon, "Two Sisters", Israel
Galleries, :Munchen, Kassel, Stuttgart. "Ceramic From Israel"
Ben Gallery, Metulla, Israel. "Sculptors of the Northern border"
1988 Jane Hartstook Gallery, Greenwich House Pottery NY
The Kibbutz Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel. "Twilight",
Corvallis Art Center, Invitational Oregon, USA. "The Aesthetic edge".
1987 Pennsylvania State University Gallery, U.S.A ."Northeast graduate ceramic".
1985 Wilfred Art Museum, , Israel. "Two Sisters".
Jaffa Gallery- Jaffa, Israel. ".Sculpture"
City Park, Ramat Gan, "Environmental Sculpture



CATALOGUES

1985	"Selected Exhibitions", The Kibbutz Art Gallery
1987	"The Open Museum", The Open Museum, Kfar Vradim, Tefen Israel "Ceramics Exhibitions for MFA. Students in North America", NCECA USA
1989	"Ceramics from Israel", Handwersform Kassel, Germany "Sculpture from the Northern Border", Galil Elion Municipality Israel
1990	"Micol Vachomer", Natania, Israel
1991	"Ceramic from East Germany and Israeli Ceramic", Ceramic Artist Association of Israel "Varda Yatom", Herzlia Museum, Herzlia Israe
1992	"Ceramics: Ancient and Contemporary", Museum of Haifa University "Art in the Light of Idea", The Kibbutz Organization "Ceramics Israel 92", Ceramic Artists Association of Israel "Ceramics from Israel", Museum for Angewandte Kunst Gera Schlosh Gustrow Marienkirche Frankfurt/Oder , Germany
1993	"Adam Adam", Art Center Givat Haviva, israel "Ceramics Biennale Beer-Seva 1993", Avraham Baron Art Gallery, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
1994	"Ceramics Israel Art Focus", National Museum of Modern Art at Kyoto and Tokyo, Japan "Israeli Sculpture in Tefen, The Last Decade", The Open Museum, Israel "21 Kunstler aus Israel Gefasse-Skulpturen", Keramik Galerie und Kunst und Form E.V.Germany "Price 1994", Education and Culture Ministry, Israel
1996	"Flacher Price Catalog", Ocland, New Ziland "Zav-Kriah - Yatom Varda",Museum Beit Kahana, Rammat-Gan, Israel "Green Arrive to the City", The Kibbutz Movement Association
1997	"To Northern Milestones", Tel-Hai Museum, Israel "By Virtue of Substance, Israeli Ceramic Sculpture 1997", The President's Residence Jerusalem, Israel
1998	"International Contemporary Ceramics from the Igal and Dian Silber Collection", Laguna Art Museum, CA, USA "Milestones Israeli Sculpture 1948-1988", The Open Art Museum, Tefen, Israel "Women Artists in Israel Art 1948-1988", Haifa Municipality Culture Department with Haifa Museum, Israel
1999	"Hanna Zuntz und Varda Yatom", Hetjens Museum, Dusseldorf, Germany
2000	"An Intended Rendezvous Contemporary Ceramics", Beit Uri and Rami Nehushtan Museum, Forum of Art Museums, The Ceramics Artists Association of Israel, Ministry of Science, Culture & Sports Department of Museums "I Have a Dream", The Interdisciplinary Center Holon, Israel " Clay 2000 the Israeli Biennale for Ceramics". Eretz Israel Museum, Tel-Aviv "Siecle", Catalog, "Sculpture"., p.30 "Children"., Beit hagefen, Haifa "Embroidery Childhood Picasso"., Ceramic desien Gallery
2001	"Matrimory"., Beit Hagefen, Haifa "Balances"., Court of Low Management
2002	"White Situations". Ceramic Organizatio "Fabrication"., Art Museum Forum "The Second Ceramic Bianale",Earaz Israel Museum.
2003	"Death Wedding"., Art Gallery Kfar Saba
2004	The Terrible Thing that Happened to the Doll Zehava" Israeli Art Center Gallery: Time for Art. Tel-Aviv



Selected Reviews

Sjaellands Tidende, "Kontakt er vigtig som kunstner og menneske". Af Nicolaj Rud Slot. 30/7/2004

Sjaellands Tidende, "International Kunstnertraef". 27/7/2004

Tempi, Interno Magazine, "Il mondo di creta di Varda", A. Calo Livna. 25/6/03

Jerusalem Post, "Friday Art", Gil Gldfin. 28/2/2003

Kol Hakfar, "Where is The Bride?", Zila Shafir, p. 45. 21/2/2003

People North, "My Fear Grows", Einbar Shinahr. 18/2/2003

Zomet Hasharon, "White Wedding Exhibition" p. 73 25/1/2003

Ceramics Art and Perception "Figurative Idols, Figuratism in Israeli Ceramics" Rayah Redlich, #41 10/2000

Haaretz Magazine, "Other Design, Childhood Embroidery", Tamy Ritov, 10/2000

Yediot Haifa, "Group Exhibition in Ceramic", Yoram Mark. 20/5/2000

Kerameiki Techni, "Varda Yatom's Sculptures",

Contact no. 3, Canada, "The Human Condition: Varda Yatom's Latest Works" Winter 97-98

Mishkafaim, "Figurativeness in Israeli Ceramic", Raia Redlich. 18/8/1997

World Sculpture News, Volume 3 no. 2, "Varda Yatom at the Modern Art Museum, Be'er Sheba", Sara Hakkert

Ceramics Art and Perception, "Wanderer's Quest: The Art of Varda Yatom", #26, Shosh Gretz, 1/1997

Al-Ha'zafon, "Big Astonishment", Dudu Palma. 26/12/1996

The Jerusalem Post Magazine, Art, "Varda Yatom", Angela Levine. 13/12/1995

Al-Ha'zafon, "The Artist as a Weary Person", Haim Maor. 27/07/1995

Ceramics Australia, Art Focus, "Contemporary Israeli Art". 15/11/1994

Al-Ha'mishmar, "Political Artistic Statement". 8/12/1993

Neue Keramik, #. 4, "Keramik aus Israel". 1992

Keramik Magazine, # 4, "Keramik Aus Israel". 1992

Ba'galil Ha'elion, "Hideous Atmosphere". 1992

Daily, # 1, "Visiting Artwork Allusive" Michael Hixon. 3/09/1992

Ha'aretz, "Varda Yatom". 19/07/1991

Al-Ha'mishmar, "Varda Yatom Herzelia Museum", Dorit Kedar. 19/07/1991

Ha'kibbutz, "Yatom Until September, Not to Miss", Sarale Zifroni. 07/1991

Ma'arive, "The Human Suffering", Irena Urbach. 07/1991

The Jerusalem Post Magazine: Art "Varda Yatom", G. Golfine. 14/06/1991

Al-Ha'sharon, "Conflict Between Temporary and Permanent" Lutring. 3/05/1991

Ceramica, "Ceramica de Israel", Italy, Antonio Vivas. 19/12/1990

Bagalil Ha'elion, "Birth of Absurd". 03/1990

Al-Hamishmar, "Pottery and Death". 5/02/1990

The Jerusalem Post Magazine, "The Art Sense", M. Ronnet. 5/01/1990

Yerushalaim, "Those are not Migrating Birds", Michael Sgan Cohen. 5/01/1990

Omanuiot #. 5, "Israeli Ceramics in Germany – Varda Yatom" 1/06/1990

Kermik Magazine, "Keramik aus Israel", Germany, Berno Allrogen. 1989

Kadarut 12, "Varda Yatom". 09/1989

Kibbutz, "The Cry of the Arts", Karny Ad-Am. 28/12/1988

Ha'shavua, "A Vanished Civilization", Dalia Bar-Amotz. 22/12/1988

The Jerusalem Post Magazine, "Twilight Zone", Gil Goldfine. 16/12/1988

The Galile Magazine, "In the Upper Galilee" 5/1988

The Time Leader, "Israeli Artist to be Featured in Preview Tonight at YCC". 13/5/1987

Digest "Introducing, Varda". 8/05/1986

Bagalil Haelion, "Varda Yatom Creates With Clay" Hora. 2/1986

Al Hamishemar. "No Incentive to Dialogue" Dorit Kedar, 11/1985

Al Hamishmar, "The Controversial Sculpture". 11/1985

Davar, "It is Great To Be In Jaffa By Night" 11/1985

Zo Haderech, "The Story of a Rejected Sculpture". 16/10/1985

Davar, "Staying Out", Zvi Dagan. 16/10/1985

Yachad; "Equality is Their Due", Hora Harkin. 24/09/1985

Books

"The Human Form in Clay", Jane Wallter, The Crowood Press, 2001

"Israel Design, From Israel Mus. To Carmel Marcat", Orian Press, 2003

"Ceramic Figures, A Directory of Artist", Michael Flynn, 2003