

## An Apology to Our Newsletter Subscribers

Due to an error in our newsletter database, our subscribers received many emails that were not meant to be sent out. We wish to offer an apology. We will start to send the newsletter out when we have fixed the problem.

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## Israeli Potter Irit Abba, Winner of the Andrea F. Bronfman Prize, Exhibits at Tel Aviv Museum



View of the exhibition.

**TEL AVIV.** Almost hidden from the public eye, the potter Irit Abba (born 1953) has been creating for three decades. A graduate of the Bezalel Department of Ceramic Design, she has been teaching there since the mid-1980s. Her work has internalized a wide-reaching pottery culture – from the ancient pottery of China and Persia to the modern esthetic discourse formed in Britain and the United States in the 1940s and 1950s. Since 2001 Abba has been perfecting porcelain work on the pottery wheel with virtuosity, testing the boundaries of matter. During the past decade, in the movement between the raw and the refined, Abba has begun realizing a fantasy of contravening prohibitions, breaching the canonical Do and Do Not Do standards of pottery.

The exhibition lays out two bodies of work, seemingly distant, that embody a transformative process undergone by Abba in the past decade, from a classical potter to a one seeking her way through porcelain. Abba has participated in many solo and group exhibitions since the 1980s in galleries and museums in Israel and abroad.

The arena of representation, which was governed in the 70s and 80s by ceramic sculptors and was this closed to potters, strove for personal themes with a vernacular appearance. Peter Voulikos' legacy, which successfully combined the innovative means of expression of Abstract Expressionism and Leach-like basic elements of European classic pottery, was rejected in Israel for fear of the sweeping myths, which, as Saul Friedlander wrote, may rise up to the surface at any moment and spread like a blazing fire or like flood water that suddenly fills up the dry canyons and gushes over the plains, sweeping everything along its way. The modernist option offered by Lucie Rie or Hans Coper in England was not taken up in Israel for the same reason.

Irit Abba grew in this habitat, offered by 1970s Bezalel. And yet during her Bezalel years she was influenced primarily by potters such as David Cohen, a guest-lecturer who presented Bezalel students with the Zen version of the Leach school.

Like generations of potters around the world, Abba was exposed in her own way to the legacy of Bernard Leach (Hong Kong, 1887-England, 1979) – a potter and thinker who shaped the status of pottery in the 1930s and 40s, giving presence in the West to Chinese and Japanese aesthetics. Having lived for a decade in Japan and a couple of years in China, Leach established in the 1930s a studio in St. Ives, Cornwall, which attracted many potters, among them the Japanese Shoji Hamada and the British Michael Cardew, who set up the foundation for a practice of studio pottery based on

an affinity between East and West. By the end of the 1960s terms such as Vernacular, Archaism, or Primitivism became part of the pottery lexicon.

Tel Aviv Museum of Art | Andrea F. Bronfman Prize | Irit Abba | potter | Israel |

### Today's News

August 10, 2009

**Anish Kapoor Installation Opens in October as Part of Guggenheim's 50th Anniversary**

**Fundació Arranz-Bravo to Open New Art Space in Barcelona**

**The Whitney Presents a Special Exhibition Exploring Lucinda Child's Legendary Dance**

**Major Exhibition of French Drawings to Open in October at the Morgan**

**The Portland Art Museum Reveals Shine a Light: A Night at the Museum**

**First Major Exhibition of Women Artists and Surrealism to be Held in Europe**

**Dale Chihuly Exhibition Next Year will Dazzle Audiences in Nashville**

**4th Biennial of the Moving Image: Film, Video and Installations in Twelve Special Venues in Mechelen**

**Israeli Potter Irit Abba, Winner of the Andrea F. Bronfman Prize, Exhibits at Tel Aviv Museum**

**Bridges and the Span of Time: Fifty Artist Survey Exhibition of Bridges of the Hudson Valley**

**Noguchi's Original Vision for the Museum Brought to Life in Reinstallation of Collection and Building Renovation**

**Artist Duo Ubermorgen.com Celebrate Tenth Anniversary with New Book: Media Hacking vs. Conceptual Art**

**First Comprehensive Retrospective of Elizabeth Peyton's Oeuvre to be Shown in Maastricht**

**The Asheville Art Museum to Present Ruth Asawa: Drawing in Space**

**63rd Bellevue Arts Museum Artsfair Draws Large, Enthusiastic Crowds to Downtown Bellevue**


**National Institute of Anthropology and History Announces that Petroglyphs in Sinaloa are Graffiti-Free**

**Author Tackles "Gallerist" in New Edition of How to Survive & Prosper as an Artist**

**An Exhibition Inspired by the Artists Featured in 'Beautiful Losers'**

**Impressionist Treasures from Tacoma Art Museum's Permanent Collection to be Shown for First Time in Years**

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