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Lotan pottery crosses the pond

By **ANDREW TOPF**
The Chronicle

From the pebbly shores of ancient Greece to the neon glow of our modern cities, pottery has always served both a functional and artistic purpose, often blurring the distinction between craft-making and high art.

Ladysmith potter Lilach Lotan combines elements of both worlds in her wood-fired clay creations, with a line of production teapots sharing studio space with her latest body of work, a series of large-scale gallery pieces she calls *Bottled*.

Lotan said she tried to combine juxtaposing ideas in the series. One piece fuses the

supple feel of leather with a hard ceramic surface into the shape of a well-worn boot. Others incorporate found objects to create free-standing, sculptural vessels: an electrical plug, a zipper, even a chessboard.

"Some are very personal and from my guts and some may come from a commercial I see or a vision from my mind. Anything can trigger an idea," says Lotan, who recently emigrated to Ladysmith from her native Israel, along with husband and business partner Ron Lotan.

The pieces caught the eye of the Gallery of BC Ceramics, which chose Lotan's work for the first of 10 solo shows



to run this month at the prestigious Granville Island gallery, quite a coup for the artist, who has never exhibited solo before.

"It's very important for people to get to know me and hopefully we'll sell some too," Lotan said with a smile.

The exhibition runs until Feb. 28 at the Gallery of B.C. Ceramics, 1359 Cartwright Street, Granville Island. Ten per cent of the sales will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross for tsunami relief.

Artist Lilach Lotan with one of her pieces on display this month at the Gallery of B.C. Ceramics.