

Arts & Crafts

Functional pottery with a twist

By VERA SOROKA

Ladysmith has a new artist in town. Lilach Lotan, a potter with attitude, has set up her studio, Lotanite Creations, and is producing some innovative pieces.

Lilach has recently relocated to Ladysmith with her husband, Ron Lotan, a jeweller and gemologist. Both are from Israel and, like many newcomers to this area, have a similar story to tell of first trying to live in Toronto, then Vancouver, and finally travelling to the Island to look around. The couple came upon Ladysmith and fell in love with the town. "It just felt right," they said.

Lilach finished her formal pottery training at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem, Israel, in 2003. From Israel, she brought original glaze recipes she had researched, but they didn't work with the different glaze supplies that are available in Canada. To overcome this hurdle, she had to start again and produce her own unique glazes with Canadian products.

She has come up with many unique designs. She describes her work as "unique wheel-thrown pottery and one-off gallery pieces with a zesty new approach to traditional pottery, and yet, by a simple touch and twist, it sparkles". She adds: "The user is always on my mind and what the piece will be used for—I just come up with a new look for each piece."

And it's working for her. Lilach recently was awarded third place at the Nanaimo Arts Council, Winter Showcase 2004, for her unusual design of a teapot and mugs.

Determined to be an original potter, she refuses to be tempted to copy anybody else's work, and erases from her mind any thought of what a functional object looks like. Lilach then starts afresh and reinvents a completely new look for the object, say, a salt shaker, giving it a playful twist.

*Potter
Lilach
Lotan of
Lotanite
Creations*

*Photo:
Vera
Soroka*



Lilach can be found in her studio at 932 Malone Road in Ladysmith, seven days a week, 10am to 7pm. Tel: 245-8292, 619-3135. email@lotanite@shaw.ca □

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