

# Arts & Crafts

By VERA SOROKA

## Bottled

*Bottled*, an exhibition of work by ceramic artist Lilach Lotan of Ladysmith, runs from Feb. 3 to 28 at the Gallery of BC Ceramics, on Granville Island, Vancouver.

This is Lotan's first ever exhibition of this calibre and sets her apart, as does her pottery. The exhibition comprises of bottles. But these bottles are different. Each bottle contains 8.5 kilos of clay, measures 24 inches in height, and is made in four parts because of the huge weight. "Rarely do I throw a vessel all in one piece. I constantly play Lego, but now I get to create my own units," said Lotan.

"Each bottle tells a story... a personal representation of relationships, dreams, hopes, struggle, balance and harmony," said Lotan. "Consciously and subconsciously I draw inspiration from events and channel them into this series of works that feature a chosen bottle contour, which is carried throughout the series, stretching it in every direction imaginable," she added.

"My work is my way to connect with the world. I've always had trouble expressing myself with words. My language is clay. I create words on the potters wheel, and then combine and shape my sentences by hand," she said.

Lotan lets her guard down when it comes to the firing. In wood firing she uses almost no glazes. Everything is left up to heat, ash and mostly chance. "If it works, there is nothing like it. You can never imitate chance. When firing in an electric kiln I chose to incorporate wood ash as a primary ingredient in my glazes because its effect is somewhat unpredictable. It 'shuffles my cards'. I never know what I'm going to get. Each kiln opening is a surprise," said Lotan.

Lotan regularly sells her work at Circle Craft, an artists' co-operative store on Granville Island.

The exhibition is a part of the Potters Guild of British Columbia's 50th at 1359 Cartwright Street, Granville Island. Opening reception is on Thursday, Feb. 3, between 6 and 8 p.m.

10 per cent of sales are being donated by the artist and gallery to the Canadian Red Cross for Tsunami Relief in Asia. □



*Lilach Lotan with three of her fabulous bottles that will be on display at the Gallery of B.C. Ceramics in Vancouver.*

*Photo: Vera Soroka*

## TAKE 5!

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