

## Yatom 88 opens exhibit in Israel

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The Open Museum in Tefen, Galilee and Golan region, Israel, opens “In the Place Farthest from Tel Aviv,” works by the sculptor Varda Yatom, Saturday, Feb. 14 with a closing scheduled for October 2015. Varda is a member of the AU Class of 1988.

Varda, one of the world's ten best ceramic sculptors, exhibits her works in Israel and abroad yet always returns to Galilee, where she lives and works on Kibbutz Sasa. This exhibition features seven new series she created in recent years.

Her work is characterized by exposure. It reveals existential questions and forms of distress, while highlighting the ceramic matter's unique abilities and qualities. Her works are created in series that are each concerned with a specific subject, yet every sculpture also exists autonomously as a work in its own right. The connection between the individual sculptures and the series, as well as between the ceramic matter and additional materials (plaster, fabric, screws, nylon), creates additional layers of meaning. Each of the series is intriguing in terms of its evolution and the connection between the different works, whose elements come together in the course of the work process giving rise to a new meaning that cannot be expressed by a single unit.

The series on exhibit includes 10 individual units and enables viewers to glimpse the artist's portrait, at times through the use of a peephole. The back side of each template reveals an aspect of her personality: a heart, a shrunken head of the artist whose expression changes from sculpture to sculpture... The rectangular template is flanked by a pair of candles and topped by two birds. It resembles a ritual object, calling to mind the ritual of lighting the Sabbath candles as well as a tombstone that alludes to death.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue/book in Hebrew and English, with an article by: Dr. Eli Bruderman, Tamar Hurvitz Livne, Ruthi Ofek, and a conversation with the writer Haim Be'er.

For information, contact: The Open Museum, Tefen 04-9109600, <http://www.omuseums.org.il>