



The Benyamini Foundation was established in 2001 thanks to the generosity of Israeli potters Issachar and Yehudit Benyamini.

In 1990 they traveled to Egypt to visit the ancient monuments. Whilst there, their bus was attacked by terrorists. Nine passengers were killed, including Issachar. Nine years later Yehudit passed away and in her Will left a legacy donating her home with the wish that it be used to establish a Ceramics Centre.

Her generosity enabled the purchase of a property in south Tel Aviv in an area rapidly becoming a hub of the vibrant art scene in the city. The **Benyamini Contemporary Ceramics Center** is a recognized, public nonprofit organization and promotes all aspects of ceramic art and design both national and international. It opened to the public in June 2011, under the guidance of Marcelle Klein, Shlomit Bauman and Ilan Meyer, Trustees of the Foundation.

- ◆ **The Benyamini Contemporary Ceramics Center** is the first of its kind in Israel and comprises:
- ◆ **Gallery spaces** which hold regular exhibitions with a program of 8-10 changing exhibitions showcasing work from established and emerging talents.
- ◆ **A ceramic art school** with a working studio – fully equipped with sufficient workspace for up to fifteen student and a program of Diploma studies.
- ◆ **Workshops** –given by invited guest artists from both home and abroad.
- ◆ **Master Classes** –held for professional artists as well as beginners' classes for those who seek an introduction to ceramic art.
- ◆ **The First Studio Program** –provides scholarships for ceramic art school graduates, giving them a studio for one year, from where they can launch their careers
- ◆ **Exchange Program** - visiting artists from abroad are invited to do residencies and give workshops at the centre. This two way exchange, working with various organizations has proven



invaluable in establishing contacts which continue over time and enrich both the visitors from abroad and those attending their seminars.

- ◆ **Outreach work** – The Benyamini Foundation continues work in the community. In particular to engage the interest of special groups and disadvantaged members of the local community, to introduce young people in local schools to the pleasure of self expression through creativity.
- ◆ **Library** – focusing on all aspects of ceramic art and design as well as archives documenting the work of ceramicists in Israel, which can be used as a source for research.
- ◆ **The Ceramic Artists Association of Israel** main office is housed in the Centre, encouraging the closer involvement of its members.

The center expresses Yehudit and Issachar's love of people, ceramics and the arts. The gallery and library are set next to the working studio creating a vibrant atmosphere, a place of work and creativity; a meeting place for young and old where interdisciplinary dialogue is encouraged, learning is nurtured and emphasis is placed on ones contribution to the community at large.