

Edna Oliver

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Date of birth: Feb 29 1976

Edna Oliver

Artist Biography

Edna Oliver (b. 1976) is a ceramic sculptress based in Tel Aviv, Israel. She graduated with honors from the Department of Ceramic and Glass Design at Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (2016). Her practice focuses on abstract ceramic sculptures that explore the relationship between form, movement, and sound through physical interaction.

Oliver has developed an innovative working method that utilizes clay's natural shrinkage during firing to create joint-like connections between interlocking parts. These connections enable movement and produce sound, resulting in sculptural objects that encourage tactile and auditory engagement. Her technique reflects both innovation and material sensitivity, with the potential to make a meaningful contribution to contemporary ceramic practice.

Her sculptural forms combine biomorphic and geometric elements and vary in complexity. Using various types of joints, they offer a wide range of motion that produces distinct movements and unique sounds. She tends to steer away from overly defined imagery, allowing each work to be interpreted differently, shaped by the observer's perspective. The interactive nature of the work encourages physical and playful engagement. These qualities shape Oliver's distinctive sculptural language, which continues to evolve through experimentation and discovery.

Oliver's process integrates analytical thinking with intuitive exploration. The final form, movement, and sound of each piece are revealed only after firing, allowing space for surprise and insight within the making process itself.

Her work has been presented in leading exhibitions across Israel, including the Ceramics Biennale at the Eretz Israel Museum and the Fresh Paint Contemporary Art Fair's Independent Artists Greenhouse. She received the 'MILA' Award from the Israeli Artists Association, which included a solo exhibition at B.Y5 Gallery. In 2021, she led her first international workshop in Faenza, Italy, where she shared her method with fellow artists and students.

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Curriculum Vitae

Solo Exhibition

2023 "White Noise", B.Y5 Gallery, Tel Aviv

Group Exhibitions

2025 "Repeat & Shift", Binyamin Gallery, Tel Aviv

2024 "Binding Agent", Kfar Saba Municipal Gallery, Kfar Saba

2023 "Avoda Bayadaim – Avoda baeynaim", Kiryat Ha'anim Gallery, Tiv'on

2022 "Kzavot Prumim", Kiryat Ha'anim Gallery, Tiv'on

2022 "Aqua Marina", Geological Museum, Ramat Harsharon

2021 "Collect \ Israeli Ceramics", Benyamini Center, Tel Aviv

2020 "The Tel Aviv Crafts and Design Biennale", Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv

2019 Joseph Fetter Museum of Nanotechnology, Ramat Gan

2019 "A Small Fish is not a Big Fish but Small", Benyamini Center, Tel Aviv

2019 "Group", B.Y5 Gallery, Tel Aviv

2018 Artists' greenhouse, Fresh Paint 10, Tel Aviv

2017 "Life Sciences", Nature Museum, Jerusalem

2016 "Bezalel Graduate Exhibition", Bezalel, Jerusalem

2016 "London - Jerusalem souvenirs", Hansen House, Jerusalem

2015 "Urban Shade in Israel", Design Museum, Holon

Educational Activities

2022,23,24,25 Workshop 'Music and Movement in Clay', Beit Binyamini, Tel Aviv

2021 Workshop 'Music and Movement in Porcelain', Faenza Ceramic Art Center, Italy

2019 Guest Artist 'Symposium on the Hill', Givat Haviva

Publications

Taly Galsky, "Glossary For wandering 'White Noise' exhibition", 1280C, Issue 45, pp.65-67 2023.

Reut Barnea, "White Movement", Textura Magazine, 20/6/2023

"it moves", Ceramics Monthly, February 2020, pp 58-62.

Levy.Y, "A talk about creative processes", 1280C, Issue 37, pp 58-63, 2018

Honors

Mila Award, Ceramic & Crafts Association of Israel and the B.Y5 gallery (2022).

Polonsky Award for excellence in design, Bezalel (2016).

Annual Award of Excellence, Bezalel (2015, 2014, 2013)

Education

2016 B.F.A. in ceramics and glass from The Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem, Israel