



The Art Bridge

Global Perspectives

Behzad Kharas:
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Folding in Motion Series, 2020, 21 x 30 x 27 cms, Simona Eren-Cheer



The Artistic Alchemy Of Simcha Even-Chen: Where Science Meets Ceramic Creativity

In the realm of science, with its analytical and mathematical underpinnings, creativity has always played a pivotal role in forging exciting innovations and unearthing discoveries. The application of precision-driven methods and the infusion of numerical and scientific concepts with an understanding of materials and their components lend a distinctive and enriching quality to art. Simcha Even-Chen, an artist based in Israel, draws inspiration from her background in biochemistry, acquired during her postdoctoral studies at Hebrew University Medical School. She honed her skills in ceramic art through night classes at the Rehovot Culture Foundation.

Simcha's artistic muse can be traced back to her father's agricultural workshop, a place where sophisticated machinery was meticulously crafted. The tactile experience of assembling various objects into machines that came to life ignited the artist within her and charted her path towards a career in art.

Simcha attests that her memories of the creation of those machines continue to inspire her work, evident in the initial phases of her creative process as she transforms slabs of clay into cylindrical forms.

The artist's scientific background finds expression in her artworks through the incorporation of chemical substances and the creative processes that led her to gravitate towards working with clay. Her scientific acumen profoundly influences her thought process, guiding her art from fluid geometrical shapes to mathematically precise patterns that seamlessly weave into her work. The resulting sculptures achieve a perfect equilibrium between control and chance, crafting a technical yet visual poetry for the viewers to explore.



Folding in Motion Series, 2021. 21 x 36 x 12.5 cm.

Simcha's ceramic works showcase a captivating interplay between mathematically precise three-dimensional forms and exquisitely adorned two-dimensional patterns. Her creations are spontaneous and often take on ribbon-like, amorphous structures, exuding an energetic persona. Through undulating motions, vibrant colours, geometric patterns, and fluidity, her sculptures communicate a new inter-space, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in a realm of wonder. The ceramicist relishes the element of surprise inherent in organic structures. In 2017, she ventured into the world of porcelain.

She would begin her process by crafting numerous cylindrical elements of varying shapes and sizes. Throughout her work, she maintains her focus on one element at a time, incorporating desired patterns through the application of colour sprays controlled by masking tape. These elements are then assembled and fired at high temperatures in a kiln, resulting in the collapse of the collective components and the emergence of unpredictable forms. Each unveiling from the kiln is a moment of revelation, as the artwork surprises her with its unique appearance.



Entrapped Series, 2022. 17 x 35 x 28 cm.

"My sculptures belong to the abstract art category, they are autonomous objects that stand independent of narrative. As autonomous sculptures, they challenge the viewer to flow their imagination interpretation."

Working with porcelain led Simcha to create two new series of works: "Folding in Motion" and "Entrapped." The former series exudes a uniformly fluid structure, mirroring the graceful movements of sea organisms, while the latter, influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and its constricting impact over the years, delves into the intensity of emotions, resulting in fragmentary forms. Each fragment entwines with the others, symbolising the concept of a claustrophobic experience.

Simcha's works are collaborative pieces, with the kiln adding the final touch to the sculpture's form. Beyond the combination of chemical components and mathematical precision, the collapse in the kiln creates biomorphic structures that stand as a testament to her scientific background and her love for ceramics. Simcha believes that her diverse background, harmoniously melding two seemingly contrasting fields with shared ideologies, defines her as an individual and uniquely contributes to both domains.



Folding in Motion Series, 2021, 20 x 32 x 20 cm

"My curiosity, scientific interest and being an artist creates an optimal balance in my life. Each one promotes my capabilities and contributes to the outcome of my activity."



Folding in Motion Series, 2020, 24 x 46 x 26 cm

The ceramicist's art epitomises the beautiful synergy between science and art, a testament to the limitless possibilities when these worlds collide. With each creation, she invites us to journey through the uncharted territory of her imagination, where art and science unite in harmony.

As an ardent explorer at heart, Simcha continues her research into various types of porcelain, delving into their properties when subjected to collapse. The fruits of this research will feature in her upcoming series, "Layers," where she explores the subsidence potential of each kind of porcelain.