

SEEDS OF HERITAGE

THE WORKS
of
ORNA TAMIR-SCHESTOWITZ



Orna Tamir-Schestowitz Seeds of Heritage

REMARKABLE OBJETS D'ART



NO TWO BOWLS ARE ALIKE

On the surface, the 70 granular clay bowls crafted by Israeli artist Orna Tamir-Schestowitz are remarkable objets d'art, each one encompassing a strikingly large space, set apart by their unusual shape. No two bowls are alike and their sheer size and unconventional silhouette instantly spark curiosity.





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A CLOSER LOOK

A closer look reveals raw, unexpected details; within each of the bowls, a photographic image has been meticulously embossed in the clay - selected portraits of herbs, fruits, and vegetables rooted in the same earth from which the pottery was made. As a bowl, multi-layered in its meaning and metaphor, it is the ultimate symbol of abundance, of the ability to carry weight - and the past.

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A PURE AND POTENT PAST



A high-contrast photograph of two pomegranates against a white background. The pomegranate on the left is cut open, revealing its red, jewel-like seeds and white pith. The pomegranate on the right is also cut open, but its red juice is spilling out onto the surface, creating a large, vibrant pink puddle. Several seeds are scattered within the puddle. The lighting is bright, casting sharp shadows.

A PURE AND POTENT PAST

All of the photographed plants were cultivated from heirloom seeds that naturally evolved over the generations, without genetic modification or human engineering; the virtuous bounty of the Israeli land.

Inspired by her close friend and colleague, chef Erez Komarovsky, and his orchard in the northern Israeli region of the Galilee, Orna Tamir-Schestowitz thoughtfully crafted the composition of each bowl with a sample of the untainted produce originating from Komarovsky's land.

The photographs, taken by Dan Perez, organically capture the natural cycle of life in an arresting standstill - a rich agricultural legacy dating back thousands of years, in addition to serving as a snapshot of Orna's own childhood.



Applying new and inventive techniques for printing on ceramics, and using the actual soil from the land, light, and shadows to frame and formulate the bowls, Orna has approached the age-old medium of ceramics with an inspired application of modern techniques.

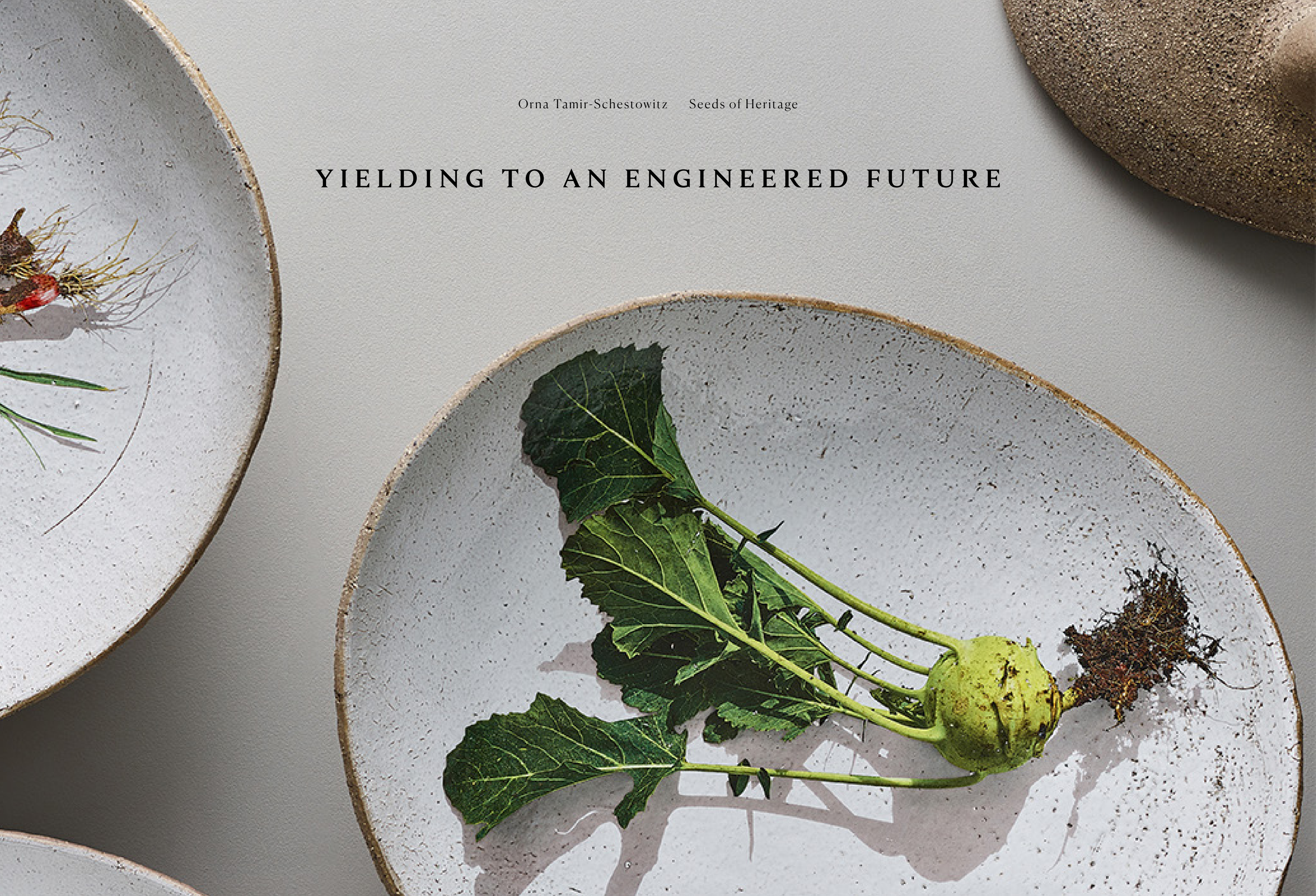


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YIELDING TO AN ENGINEERED FUTURE



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In our current world of the engineered and the cloned, the exotic and the hybrid, crops are monetized by their trend-setting, super food-producing abilities. Orna's bowls are reminders of what the earth once sowed, what is too far gone, and what now serves as a cautionary tale to what kind of substitutes we are buying into and the deviant, forged inheritance we are bestowing upon generations to come.



For Orna, each bowl is a sustainable continuum; one that begs to re-plant the familial connection to agriculture and to the land that shaped who she is today. She approached the making of each bowl from her own singular perspective; one that cherishes the multi-layered, nourishing and fulfilling aspects of food, surrounded by family, Mediterranean flavors, and a thorough passion for one's country and home.

Toiling with the shadows, light and shade, selecting which crops accurately serve the bowl as a canvas, expresses her collective longing for forgotten days. The ceremonious acknowledgement attempts to recreate something that will last in the form of a vessel; a contemporary relic emanating traces of the past, yet flourishing in its very own way.



Surrounded by family,
Mediterranean flavors,
and a thorough passion
for one's country
and home.



Orna Tamir-Schestowitz Seeds of Heritage

ORNA TAMIR SCHESTOWITZ
IS AN ISRAELI-BASED
ARTIST AND CURATOR



ABOUT THE ARTIST

With a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology, and later in Communications, Orna previously worked as a Senior Editor in the fields of fashion, architecture and lifestyle. In 2000, she published an architectural-design book entitled “Homes with Personal Style”. In 2005, she curated “Offering Reconciliation” at the Ramat Gan Museum; an exhibition of art works by Israeli and Palestinian artists on ceramic bowls which she designed.



In 2007, the peace-making exhibition traveled to the United Nations building in New York and toured American campuses. All of the 136 artworks were auctioned off at Sotheby's with the proceeds donated to the Israeli Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace. In 2012, she produced a film documenting the activities of art students from Haifa University that worked to rehabilitate the refugee community in the Kakuma camp in Kenya.





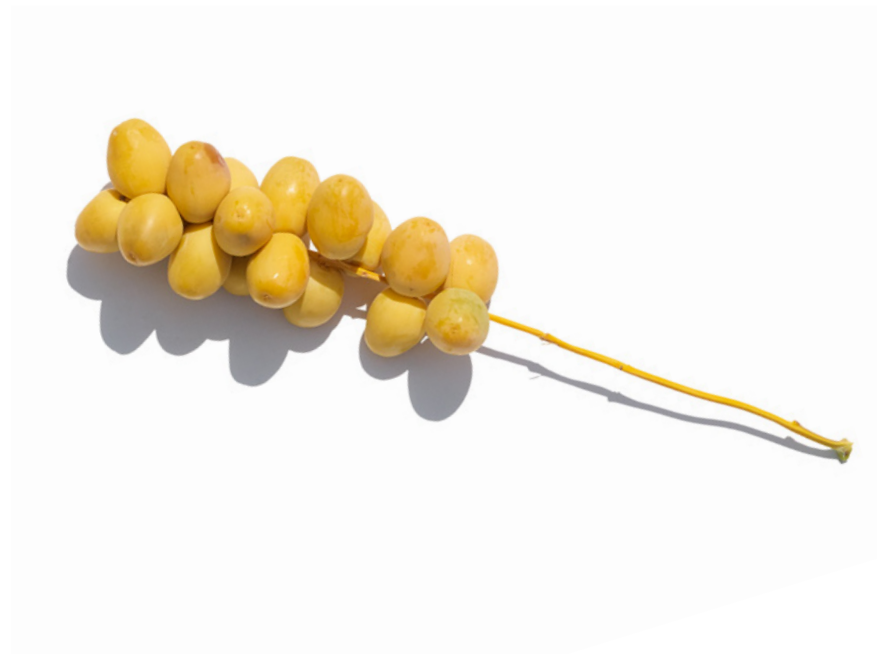
Left : Seeds of Heritage Collection at home of the artist
Right: Seeds of Heritage Plate Collection
at The Eretz Israel Museum, Israel.

As part of the project, she created an exhibition of photographs and a video. The exhibition was presented at the University of Haifa, and the film serves as a learning tool. In April 2018, she presented the Seeds of Heritage project at Fresh Paint, Israel's premier annual art exhibition. Currently, Orna is presenting "The Goodness of the Land and its Heritage" at the ceramic pavillion of the Eretz Israel Museum.

She was also honored to present her work to President Rivlin during Tu Bishvat, a Jewish harvest holiday that literally means 'New Year of the Trees' and is a day celebrated in Israel for ecological awareness when trees are planted as part of the festivities.

Orna deeply believes in educating forthcoming generations and she extensively donates her time and philanthropic support to burgeoning young artists studying at Jerusalem's esteemed Bezalel Academy of Art & Design. Her vision for future works includes merging cultural heritages with technology, design, lifestyle and wellness to explore artistic educational mediums and discover new formats.





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