



AIDAshed: Expanding Community

*Above: Givat Haviva Art Center. Exterior view during sculpture and life yard.
Below: Meals included delicious fresh vegetables and fruits grown in Israel. Salads, fresh breads, meats and vegetarian options were abundant.*

THEY ALL HAD LINKS TO BEER SHEVA. IT BECAME THE JOKE WITHIN OUR new community of artists. And we too, new visitors to Israel, a country no larger than New Jersey, would travel through the centre of Israel on our return from Masada. Many of the Israeli artists had shown in exhibitions together but few had worked in a studio side by side. Israel is a magnificent country with a diverse population. If you are Israeli, it is likely you know someone from a town who is a friend of a friend or family relation. Many have children, sons and daughters serving in the army. It is a special place for all religions; a centre of culture, a source of political question. Linda Seemin, Molly Hatch and

I were visitors who became a part of a community of Israeli artists during July 2012 at what is known as AIDAshed.

Inspired by the Watershed residency model, AIDAshed, is an international ceramics residency in Israel, introduced in 2010, by the Association of Israel's Decorative Arts, AIDA, founded in 2003 has made its mission "to foster the development of contemporary decorative artists from Israel by connecting them to an international audience of galleries, institutions and collectors". The esteemed Board of Directors is excited about AIDAshed which has just completed its second year of programming.

AIDAshed is hosted by the Givat Haviva Institute's Art Center, a primary and well equipped facility for ceramics located an hour north of Tel Aviv. Givat Haviva was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 2001 for its long-standing work in promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue and reconciliation. When invited to be one of three international artists I was excited by the philosophy of the centre. For me, the idea of cultural education inspired the concept for my residency sculpture.

The ceramics artists who were selected by the boards of AIDA and

CeramicsTECHNICAL No. 34 2013

