Gil Burstein
Portfolio

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Artist statement Gil Burstein

Sculptor of complex, detailed, and dynamic human figures.
As an artist working with various mediums, including clay, bronze, and iron, I was born in Kibbutz Nirim and currently live and create in Tel Aviv.
My work delves into themes of emotions and relationships—between couples, individuals and their inner selves, their environment, and the observer. I intentionally place the responsibility on the viewer to form independent thoughts inspired by the feelings my sculptures evoke.
For me, sculpting in bronze represents a concentrated expression of dedication, artistic planning, and precise technical execution. This process allows me to convey the stories I wish to tell, sparking thought and inspiring reflection in those who encounter my work.
We are all born into this world naked and spend our lives trying to cover ourselves. The smooth, visually striking nudity of my bronze figures celebrates the human body in a proud and unapologetic way. The movement in my sculptures amplifies the emotions I experienced during a specific moment or period, making them an integral part of the narrative.
At times, I only realize the emotion or experience that inspired a piece once the sculpture is complete. Occasionally, my work feels prophetic, becoming relevant at just the right moment in time.
My sculptures are like frozen footprints in time, enduring for thousands of years. As time distances itself from their creation, they will evoke even more questions and reflections. Some pieces incorporate contemporary objects or clothing, which, over time, will transform into historical puzzles for future generations.
The power of original art lies in its ability to broaden perspectives and foster cultural growth.
Currently, I am refining my skills in realistic sculpture to expand my expressive toolkit. I draw inspiration from authentic, internal sources, creating a fresh, primal world that is unburdened by familiar references.



Gil Burstein CV

Born and raised in Kibbutz Nirim, Israel.
Currently lives and works in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Education

1999-2003 - B.Des., Industrial Design, Shenkar – Engineering. Design. Art. (Vitál Campus), Israel
2016-Present - Studies in Figurative–Realistic Sculpture under the mentorship of sculptor Stephan Bokor

Solo Exhibition

2025 - Solo Pop-Up Exhibition, Ha-Halfanim, Old Jaffa, Israel

Group Exhibitions

2026- BTB Tel Aviv Israel
2026 - Town Hall Gallery, Netanya, Israel
2026 - Dondikov House, “House of Choice,” Rehovot, Israel
2025 - Al HaAgam Gallery, “Flowers of Hope,” Raanana, Israel
2025 - The Cliff Gallery, Netanya, Israel
2025 - Al HaAgam Gallery, Raanana, Israel
2025 - Eilat 22 Gallery, Tel Aviv Mall, Israel
2025 - The Space Art Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel
2025 - Art Contemplor Gallery, Vienna, Austria
2025 - Heichal HaTarbut (Hall of Culture), “Dream or a Window,” Netanya, Israel
2024 - Herzl 156, “Swords of Hope,” Tel Aviv, Israel
2023 - BSR Towers, “We’ll Be Right Back,” Bnei Brak, Israel
2006 - J.S. Gallery, New York, USA
2002 - Red Bull Can Art, Flea Market & Tel Aviv Port, Israel

Selected Festivals & Art Installations

2017-2026 - Midburn - Sculptures and Installations
2016-2025 - Burnerot -Sculptures and Installations
2021 - Burn-In Motion - Sculptures and Installations

Auctions

2007 - ALE Association, Charity Event, Manhattan, New York, USA

Professional Experience

1990-2003 - Metal Works, Kibbutz Nirim
2003-Present - Independent Industrial Designer

Awards

2026 Natanya Mayor’s outstanding artist award for the Natanya artists association annual exhibition

“Selfie”



Bronze
H 75 cm
W 80 cm
D 45 cm
2021

“Selfie” is a character that represents a woman taking a selfie, with her appearance reflecting her self-image. Adorned with accessories inspired by Burning Man events, she highlights the shift in people's priorities—placing greater emphasis on personal image and less on their surroundings.

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“Emotional accident”





Emotional Accident" (4)"
is a sculpture that encapsulates a period of several years and several relationships that ended for me, relationships in which I opened my heart completely, innocently believing that *this time, it’s forever*. I loved without defenses and without a safety net. I loved with every cell in my body. These relationships ended, and at the time I didn’t have the tools to understand why. The past years were marked by especially painful breakups, each requiring a long recovery before the next. Each separation felt like an emotional accident, like a head-on collision where my feelings were simply shattered.
Today I understand that these were recurring lessons, and that I failed to recognize the messages in real time. Now the awareness is present, and this is where the work toward change begins.
In the sculpture, the relationship between the two figures is unclear; it seems as though an external force has placed them in this situation. They appear surprised, almost like in a scene of expulsion from Eden, where they had lived until not long ago.
They are in a state where they have no control over what is happening to them.
The multiple arms in the sculpture are meant to amplify the sense of movement and create an enclosure of the three-dimensional space.

Bronze
H 58 cm
W 40 cm
D 45 cm
2025

“Energies back”



"Energies back"

In this sculpture, a man is depicted caught within a wild conflict of energies. On one hand, he is ready for growth and development, while on the other, the energies are unable to flow out of him as they once did. I created this sculpture during a long and difficult breakup, and it represents the intense energetic conflict I experience during this process on one side, energies accumulate within me powerful enough to illuminate the Earth, while on the other, my soul has not yet healed.

I carry these feelings of energetic conflict that have been tearing me apart for a long time, and the energies are slowly returning to me, but I am still unable to radiate onto the world as I did before the breakup.

It will come, and I will soar into space.

Bronze
H 55 cm
W 31 cm
D 25 cm
2025

“Emerging”





"Emerging"

The sculpture depicts a man in formation, emerging from a woman sculpted in detail. The woman is only a general representation; she is not a specific or real person.

Throughout all my relationships, I noticed that I tend to understand, become interested in, and dive into my partner’s world. These worlds fascinated me and brought novelty and excitement into my life, because they were foreign to me and different from my familiar worlds.

Over time, I realized that I was increasingly absorbed into my partner’s world, gradually forgetting myself and my boundaries. I gave up and minimized my own worlds to gain more novelty and excitement from hers. At the end of such a process, I found myself remaining inside my partner’s world, with almost nothing left of my own.

This sculpture symbolizes the decision to return to myself, to build a backbone, to explore and discover who I am, and to understand that a relationship is composed of two whole individuals, not two halves.

The man breaking out (depicted unfinished and in formation) is reborn, taking his first breath outside the world in which he had disappeared. From there, he begins to build himself, accept all his parts, and become a true, whole, stable, strong, and defined individual with clear boundaries.

Bronze
H 50 cm
W 30 cm
D 10 cm
2025

“Trauma bond”



Bonze
H 76 cm
W 30 cm
D 27 cm

The sculpture “**Trauma Bond**” depicts a couple going through an inevitable separation within a traumatic relationship one that binds them through the emotional wounds they recognize in each other. The anxious partner clings to the avoidant partner, who gradually disappears between their arms, while the transition from brown to bluish white heightens the drama and conveys a sense of dissolution. The sculpture explores pain, attachment patterns, and the personal lessons we are often forced to learn through relationships.

“Guarding angel “





Bronze
H 35 cm
W 18 cm
D 35 cm

“The inevitable”





Bronze
H 59 cm
W 45 cm
D 24 cm
2023

"The inevitable“ This sculpture was born from a relationship that, from the very first day, it was clear could not last. We were at different stages in life, and the gap between us was impossible to bridge. The life direction of one naturally canceled out the desires of the other.
We loved each other deeply, but we knew the breakup was inevitable, and that it was only a matter of time how long we could keep going without acknowledging the elephant in the room.
“The Inevitable” depicts an angel quietly gesturing “shhh” with one hand, while the other hand beckons with a “come” motion. It is an angel you cannot bypass or escape; all that remains is to accept it and face it.
Everyone has their own “inevitable” in life (not only in relationships) those events we see approaching yet cannot prevent, challenges from which there is no escape. Eventually, each of us will encounter the Angel of the Inevitable and will have to face it.
All of us, without exception, will meet the Angel of the Inevitable at the end of the road. And when that moment comes, we will receive it with understanding, acceptance, and without resistance.

“All is temporary”





"All is temporary“

This sculpture was created during a highly sexual period of my life, in which I experienced a sense of euphoria with a partner I believed I would be with forever. At the time, I didn’t have the tools to understand that it was only temporary.

One day, I found myself with her in a riverbed in the Dead Sea area, in the very situation depicted in the sculpture. Suddenly, a shiver of vision swept through me a shifting reality in which we were, for a moment, inside the sculpture and then back in the act itself.

The sculpture includes multiple arms to enhance the sense of movement and touch.

About two months later, the relationship ended unexpectedly. I was stunned by how it happened, especially after we had experienced such elevated states of consciousness together and particularly because that period was responsible for the greatest expansion of awareness I had ever known.

One of the most significant things I learned is that everything is temporary. Every person we meet or form a connection with no matter how deep or meaningful is temporary in our lives. Each one fulfills a role in our journey, and once that role is complete, they continue onward.

Even if a relationship lasts a lifetime, separation will ultimately come (because every soul walks alone when it leaves this world), and we remain with what we learned from it.

Everything is temporary; everything is dynamic.

Bronze
H 53 cm
W 30 cm
D 21 cm
2023

“Covid sisters”



Bronze
H 37 cm
W 27 cm
D 33 cm
2021

“Covid sisters” was born in the midst of the global pandemic, a time of fear, isolation, and longing for human connection. The sculpture captures two young women locked in a deep, almost desperate embrace—an embrace of love, of solace, of an uncertain future. Their faces are partially obscured by masks, a haunting reminder of the era that kept us apart. In a world where physical closeness became a risk, this sculpture dares to defy that fear, making the warmth of their closeness almost tangible.

“Unicorn chicken”



Bronze
H 43 cm
W 11 cm
D 10 cm
2016

"Unicorn Chicken" is a sculpture depicting a young woman—powerful, fierce, and unshaken. Adorned with accessories reminiscent of the Burning Man aesthetic, she gazes into the horizon, her body poised in a stance that captures the very moment before stepping forward into the unknown. She is on the brink of something greater, embodying transformation, courage, and the untamed spirit of self-expression.

“Joy”





Bronze
H 85 cm
W 35 cm
D 23 cm
2017

“JOY” She is an optimistic and vibrant character inspired by the world of Burning Man events, equipped with a glass, a cell phone, and a water bottle. JOY symbolizes the exhilaration and sense of freedom that participants experience at these gatherings.

“Pole dancer 1”



Bronze
H 50 cm
W 25 cm
D 8 cm
2025

“Pole dancer #1” is the first of a 4 pole dancers set of 4 different pole acrobats.
On this set the I capture the dynamic movement and do not concentrate on the small accurate details.

“In to the abyss”

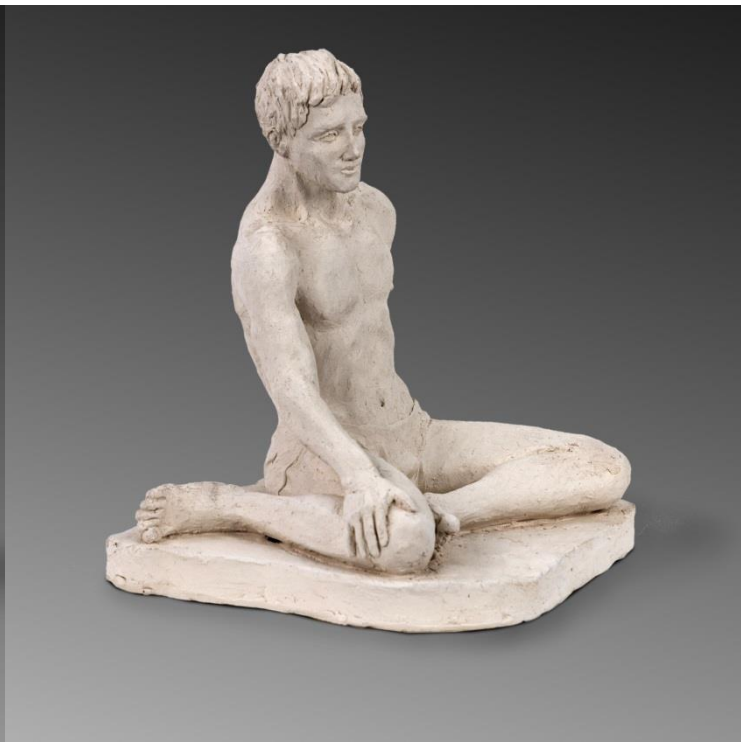


Iron
H 210 cm
W 80 cm
D 80 cm
2026

“In to the abyss” is a diver diving into her soul , trying to reach a pearl that symbolizes hear desire to get to the source of what built her character and start her healing process and to build her soul on a new healthy way by learning from past hard life lessons

“Calm horizon”





White clay
H 29 cm
W 32 cm
D 28 cm
2019

“Calm horizon” This sculpture captures a young man in a state of serene tranquility, unburdened by worries, as he sits gazing peacefully into the endless horizon. The embodiment of quiet contemplation, it invites the viewer into a world where time slows and the weight of the world dissolves, leaving only a moment of pure stillness.

“Covid sisters”





White clay
H 37 cm
W 27 cm
D 33 cm
2021

“Covid sisters” Clay version was born in the midst of the global pandemic, a time of fear, isolation, and longing for human connection. The sculpture captures two young women locked in a deep, almost desperate embrace—an embrace of love, of solace, of an uncertain future. Their faces are partially obscured by masks, a haunting reminder of the era that kept us apart. In a world where physical closeness became a risk, this sculpture dares to defy that fear, making the warmth of their closeness almost tangible.

“The break trough ”





White clay
H 40 cm
W 36 cm
D 16 cm
2020

"The Breakthrough“ This sculpture captures a defining moment—an eruption from the past into the unknown. It embodies the raw, unfiltered essence of transition, the end of a marriage, and the daring leap into a new life. With every line and contour, it pulses with the energy of an active breakthrough—a forceful step beyond fear, into the boundless possibilities ahead.

“Mor”





White clay
H 50 cm
W 25 cm
D 21 cm
2021

Mor" is a sculpture of a nude model, created in a bold attempt **"** to capture essence and form within just five intense sessions. The raw energy of rapid execution merges with the delicate precision of artistic expression, revealing a moment frozen in .time—a testament to both urgency and mastery

“Revelation”



White clay
H 50 cm
W 37 cm
D 32 cm
2024

"Breath" is the embodiment of a mature woman, seated in serene meditation, holding raw elemental power—true fire in one hand, a fragment of the cosmos in the other.
Upon her chest, she bears a sacred symbol, drawn by “Shani Louk, who was murdered during the Nova festival massacre on October 7, 2024. She had wished for her art to be spread across the world, and now, through this sculpture, her spirit lives on.
"Breath" radiates an aura of tranquility, deep focus, and ritualistic presence, inviting the observer to surrender to the silence within and merge with existence itself.

“Defeated”





White clay
H 30 cm
W 25 cm
D 40 cm
2025

“Defeated”
The state she was it when hitting rock bottom without close , without anything. Just her and the lessons she learned

“Soul”





White clay
H 55 cm
W 31 cm
D 25 cm
2025

"Soul"
This sculpture represents a love that ended in a long and difficult breakup, stemming from an unhealthy relationship on both sides and a lack of awareness of classic attachment patterns.
In this breakup, I felt as if my heart had been ripped from its place and remained beating in the hands of my former partner. Today I understand that I gave her all my strength and my heart as a gift, and it was not taken from me out of malice or ill intent.

“Fallen angel”



Wood
H 60 cm
W 80 cm
D 40 cm
2023

"Fallen Angel" is a wooden sculpture that captures the torment of an angel, desperately yearning to return to an unattainable realm after being cast down from the place to which it once belonged. The figure exudes longing, regret, and an eternal struggle against fate—forever reaching for the heavens, yet bound to the earth.

“Revelation”





Welded Iron
H 60 cm
W 60 cm
D 25 cm

"Revelation" is a sculpture that captures the profound moment when both soul and body transcend into ultimate understanding—the very instant of the final answer. It is a frozen echo of enlightenment, a whisper of truth unveiled, where existence itself converges into pure realization.

“Thankful gratitude”



White clay
H 25 cm
W 15 cm
D 15 cm
2024

“Peace”





White clay
H 43 cm
W 32 cm
D 25 cm

“Shalva” (inner peace in Hebrew language) is a sculpture that represents the inner peace I reached after several years of lessons that life forced me to face.
During that period, I went through a deep crisis of self-awareness. I began to see parts of myself that I could no longer ignore patterns, fears, and aspects of my personality that I had to admit existed in order to truly change.
I had to go down to the root of them, face them without running away, understand where they came from, and learn how to change them.
It was very hard work within myself, but from that abyss I managed to pull myself out on my own.
That journey created a deep transformation in me and brought with it a new kind of inner quiet, a conscious peace that had never existed in me before.

“I am the dance”



Polymer Clay
H 48 cm
W 12 cm
D 20 cm

“I am the dance” is a the state that you realize you are it. That you are the party’ you are the center. That you are the writer of your life

“Depth”





Das
H 30 cm
W 10 cm
D 10 cm

“Untamed”





Clay polymer foam
H 28 cm
W 25 cm
D 25 cm

“Little Selfie”



Whit clay
H 18 cm
W 8 cm
D 10 cm

“Pole dancers”



Polymer Clay
H 28 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Pole dancers”



Polymer Clay
H 28 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Pole dancers”



Polymer Clay
H 28 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Pole dancers”



Polymer Clay
H 28 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Acrobats”



Polymer Clay
H 20 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Acrobats”



Polymer Clay
H 20 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Acrobats”



Polymer Clay
H 20 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Acrobats”



Polymer Clay
H 20 cm
W 10 cm
D 20 cm

“Guarding angel”





Das
H 22 cm
W 10 cm
D 18 cm

Thank you

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