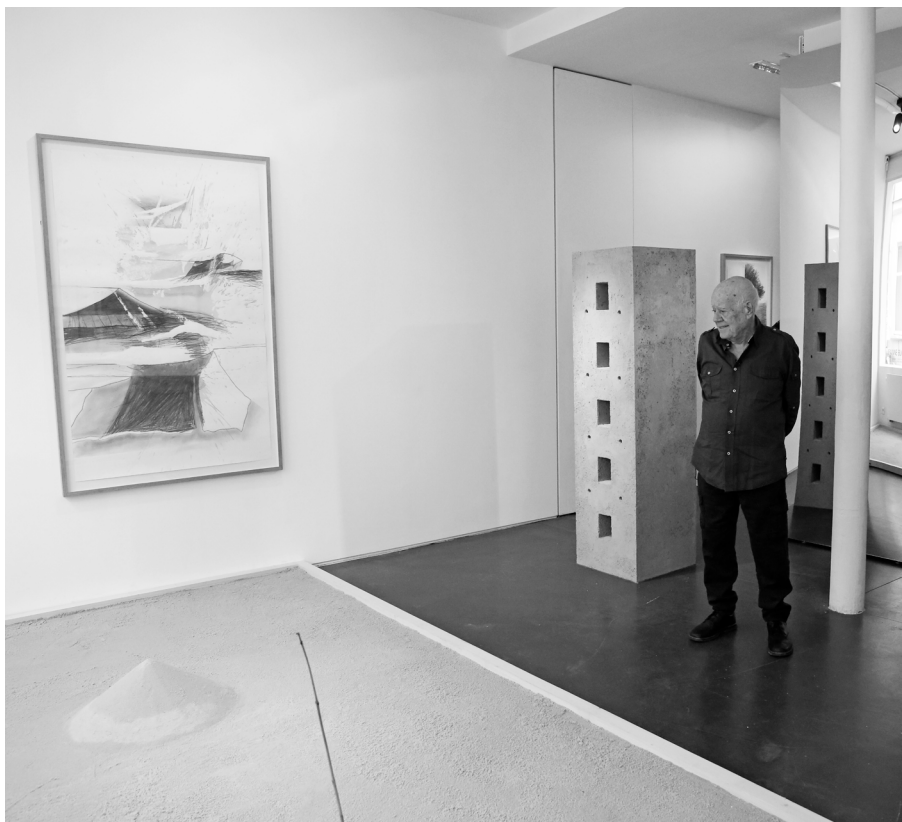


DANI KARAVAN (1930 - 2021, Tel Aviv, Israel)



Dani Karavan, solo show ADAMA, 2018-2019, Jeanne Bucher Jaeger Gallery, Paris, Marais
© Michel Lunardelli

Dani Karavan is known for his extraordinary interventions in the landscape, monumental yet minimal. His environmental sculptures, which convey messages of togetherness and peace, are installed all over the world.

After studying painting in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, he learned fresco techniques in Florence and Fine Arts in Paris. Dani Karavan, who was born in 1930, worked as a stage designer for the theatre and ballet. He soon began to focus on site-specific environmental sculpture, and created the *Negev Monument*, which earned him international recognition.

The gallery began to exhibit his work in the 1980s, when he started working on the *Axe Majeur*, a sculpture built over a long period of time, alike the pyramids, connecting the new city of Cergy-Pontoise to the historic center of Paris. Construction began in 1980 and is still ongoing 42 years later; the last station along this 3 kilometer environmental sculpture, the "Astronomical Island," has yet to be completed. His installations can be found in many parts of the world, always in harmony with the environment, the memory of the site and the path they draw for people.

Dani Karavan, named UNESCO Artist for Peace in 1996, died on May 29, 2021. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, honored him on July 6, 2022, by unveiling of the environmental sculpture he created for the UNESCO garden named *Square of Tolerance, Tribute to Yitzhak Rabin* which has now been fully restored.

« *His Square of Tolerance, installed in 1996, which intertwines Hebrew and Arabic in the UNESCO preamble, resonates today more than ever, to promote the culture of peace and refuse the denial of the other.* »

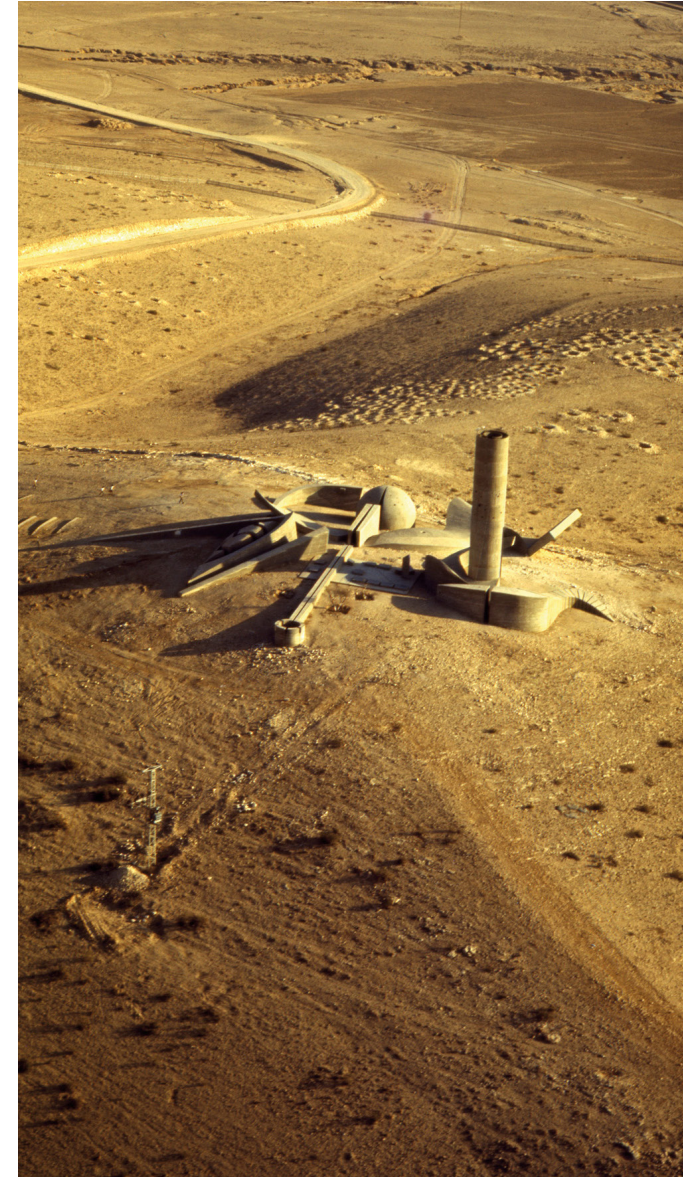
Audrey Azoulay, May 29th, 2021

PHILOSOPHY

The profoundly humanistic work of artist Dani Karavan, whose environmental sculptures are installed in the four corners of the planet, draws its material from diverse natural elements such as sand, wood, water, wind, trees and light. They resonate with the site's memory, the artist's true medium, and are conceived as places of life, reflection and communion with nature.

From Israel to Japan, from the United States to Korea, from France to Italy, each of the artist's works invites the viewer to participate in an intense experience that involves the mind, emotions and the senses, to deeply feel the essence of a place. The site (*ma-kom* in Hebrew) is always the work's starting point: its specialness, its environment, its memory, its history.

His final exhibition in 2018-2019 at the gallery, titled *ADAMA*, presented recent bas-reliefs and sculptures made in raw earth, a material that embodies life's essence, whose simple shapes command respect. While the twelfth and last part of *Axe Majeur* – a sculpture initiated in 1980 and measuring 3 kilometers long, installed in the Cergy-Pontoise, whose essential components are space, time, memory and the environment – was still in progress, Dani Karavan returned to making small sculptures, which he referred to as «chamber music.» Commemorating the earthen villages of his childhood, conceived as inhabitable sculptures with rooms and furniture made entirely of earth, like ancient vestiges of Canaanite and Israelite constructions. In collaboration with the artisan Rachid Mizrahi, he developed an innovative technique of mud bricks to create durable bas-reliefs and sculptures. Choosing to revisit the traditional villages of his ancestors, working towards simple and universal forms that resonate with the sculptures of such great twentieth-century artists as Brancusi, Noguchi and Giacometti, Dani Karavan retained a fundamentally childlike, innocent, and pacifist nature, saying: «*I was born on the Mediterranean shore, I have walked in dunes, along olive trees, mountains and valleys that survived all these horrible wars. Memory has become part of my own being, and if memory is forgotten, one loses direction, and path.*» Germain Viatte wrote that these last works in raw earth were like “*a sort of great 'primer of his world-description,'*” a way to outdo oneself that the artist has constantly refined and specified while applying it to very diverse geographical and historical situation... The vertical stele shows the ascending desire to escape from gravity, to place human beings on an equal footing with trees and mountains, between earth and sky. In these mud-brick sculptures, Dani Karavan invites visitors not to contemplate his works from afar, but to live them – to walk on them, to climb them and even to use them in their own creations, as was the case with numerous photographers, actors, singers, designers and filmmakers.



Dani Karavan, *Negev Monument*, 1963-1968, Beer Sheva, Israël
Wind, sunlight, water, fire, desert Acacias, grey concrete, text
20 x 100 x 100 m
© David Rubinger



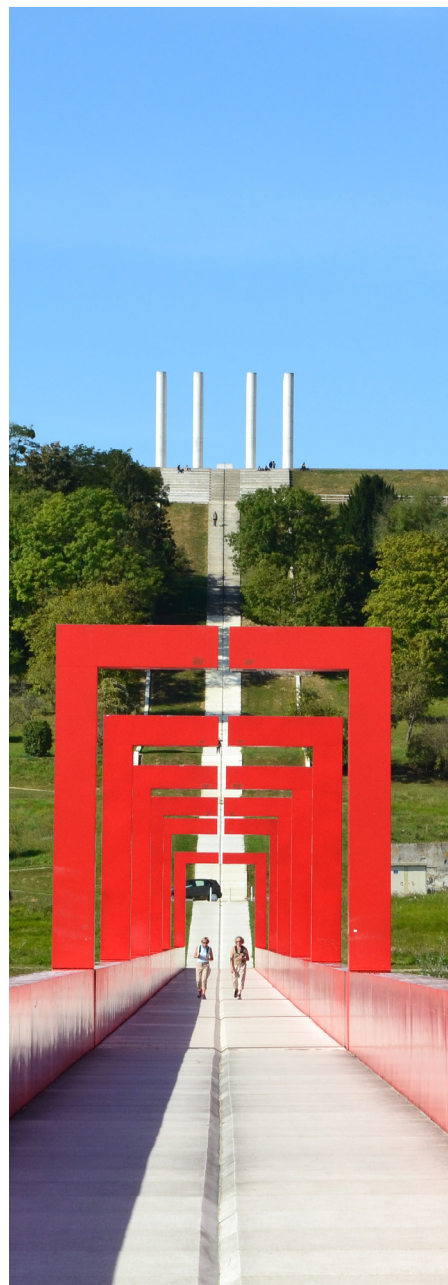
Photographic installation showing more than 50 creations by Dani Karavan

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018-19 Monographic exhibition *ADAMA*, Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Marais Space, Paris, France
 2015 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan*, Musée d'Art moderne, Cèret, France
MAKOM, The Essence of Place, International Cultural Centre, Cracow, Poland
 2014 Monographic exhibition *50 years Negev monument. Dani Karavan's Public Art*, Néguev Museum, Beersheba, Israel
 20th Anniversary of the Passengers Memorial for Walter Benjamin, Port-Fou, Catalonia, Spain
 2010-2014 *Examen*, environmental sculpture, Tel Hashomer Hospital, Tel-Aviv, Israel
 2008-2009 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan – Rétrospective*, Art Museum, Nagasaki, Japan 2008
 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan – Rétrospective*, Martin Gropius Museum, Berlin, Germany
 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan – Rétrospective*, Museum of Art Setagaya, Tokyo, Japan
 2007 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan – Rétrospective*, Tel-Aviv Art Museum, Tel-Aviv, Israel
 2006-2014 *Jardin d'Harel*, environmental sculpture, Harel, Jérusalem, Israel
 2002 *Adam & Eve*, Daniel Spoerri Garden, Toscane, Italy

 Monographic exhibition *Pardes*, IVAM – Institute of Modern Art of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan Site Specific Works*, National Museum of Architecture, Moscow, Russia
 Monographic exhibition *Dani Karavan, dessins et sculptures*, Galerie Jeanne Bucher, Paris, France
 2001-2013 *Place de la Culture*, environmental sculpture, Tel-Aviv, Israel
 1999-2012 *Mémorial aux Sinti et Roms*, environmental sculpture, Berlin, Germany
 1998-2006 *Murou Art Forest*, environmental sculpture, Village de Murou, Préfecture of Nara, Japan
 1997-2005 *Mizrach*, environmental sculpture, Neupfarrplatz, Regensburg, Germany
 1997-2002 *Grundgesetz 49*, sculpture environnementale, Dorotheenblöcke, Parliament building, Berlin, Germany
 1996-2000 *Chemin de la Paix*, environmental sculpture for 3 km (along the border with Egypt) Nitzana, Israel
 1996-99 *Jardin des mémoires*, environmental sculpture, Duisburg, Germany
 1995-2001 *Portes de la connaissance*, environmental sculpture, City of Sciences, Naples, Italy
 1994-95 *Dorfplatz*, environmental sculpture, Horgen Communication Centre, Zurich, Switzerland
 1993-98 *Square de la Tolérance Hommage à Yitzhak Rabin*, Jardins de l'UNESCO, Paris, France
 1993-95 *Ma'ayan*, environmental sculpture dedicated to the victims of Hiroshima, Miyahi Museum of Art, Sendai, Japan
 1993-94 *Hommage aux Anciens Détenus du Camp de Gurs*, environmental sculpture, Gurs, France
 1993 Monographic exhibition, *Chemin des Droits de l'Homme*, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, Germany



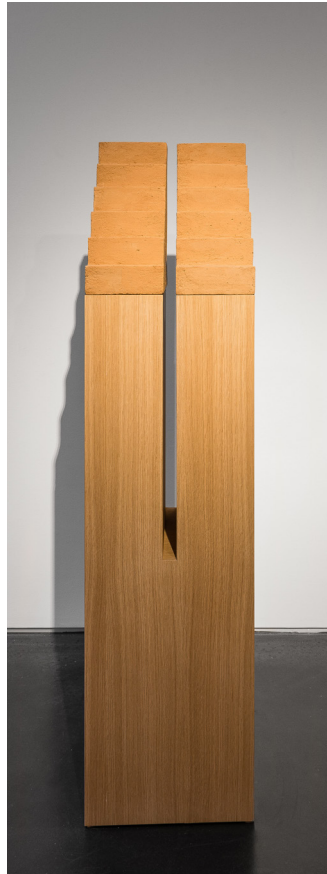
View of the *Axe Majeur*, Cergy-Pontoise, France
 © Studio Karavan

1992-99 *Chemin vers le Jardin Secret*, environmental sculpture, Outdoor sculpture park, Sapporo, Japan
 1992 *Three Continent Project-Transcultura*, environmental sculpture, Afrique/Asie/Europe *Rétrospective Dani Karavan*, Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany
 1990-98 Gan-Hameyasdim, Yad-Lebanim, environmental sculpture, Hedera,
 1990-94 *Passages – Hommage à Walter Benjamin*, environmental sculpture, Port-Bou, Spain
 1989-2000 Esplanade Charles de Gaulle, environmental sculpture, Nanterre, France
 1989-99 *Carré urbain*, environmental sculpture, Parc des Sources de la Bièvre, Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France
 1989-93 *Chemin des Droits de l'Homme*, environmental sculpture, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg, Germany
 1989 *Dialogue*, environmental sculpture, Musée Wilhelm Lehbruck, Duisburg, Germany
 1987-88 *Way of light – Hommage au Roi Sejoing*, environmental sculpture, Parc Olympique, Séoul, South Korea
 1987 *Est-Ouest*, sculpture, Meeting for peace between Palestinians and Israelis, Neve Shalom, Israel
 1986-2011 *Axe Majeur*, environmental sculpture, Cergy-Pontoise, France
 1982-2000 *Ligne 1, 2, 3 + 1 + 1 = 5*, environmental sculpture, Spazi d'Arte, Fattoria di Celle, Pistoia, Italy
 1982 Square, environmental sculpture, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark
 11980-86 *Ma' alot*, environmental sculpture, Tel-Aviv, Israel
 1978 *Deux environnements pour la paix*, monographic exhibition, Forte di Belvedere, Florence ; Castello dell'Imperatore, Prato, Italy
 1976 *Environnement pour la paix*, monographic exhibition, Pavillon israélien, 38^{ème} Venice Biennale, Italy
 1977-88 *Place Blanche*, environmental sculpture, Tel-Aviv, Israel
 1975-80 Bas-relief, Banque Discount, 5^{ème} Avenue, New York, United States
 1965-66 *Prière pour la Paix de Jérusalem*, bas-relief, Assembly of the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), Jerusalem, Israel
 1964-76 Decorations for the dance company Bat Sheva (*Tent of Visions, Women in a Tent, The Betrothal, Side Show, Voices of Fire, Reflections, Curtains, Sin lieth at the Door, Ein Dor, Time for Waiting, Moon Full, Zodiac, Puppets of Death, Games we Play, Until that I Arose*), Israel
 1963-68 *Monument du Néguev*, environmental sculpture, Beer Sheba, Israel
 1962-74 Decorations ofr the dance company Martha Graham (*La légende de Judith, Réalité et rêve, La jungle sacrée*), New-York
 1961-67 35 bas-reliefs, Justice courtyard, Tel-Aviv, Israel
 Decorations for the dance company Bat Sheva, Rève, Israel
 1954-56 Drawings of suburban landscapes on Tel Aviv and abandoned Arab houses near Tel Aviv, Israel

WORKS



Dani Karavan
Hafuch - Upside down, 2014,
Earth sculpture and wood,
162,5 x 36 x 36 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Teomin - Twins, 2014
Earth sculpture and wood,
148,5 x 36 x 36 cm
© Grégory Copitet



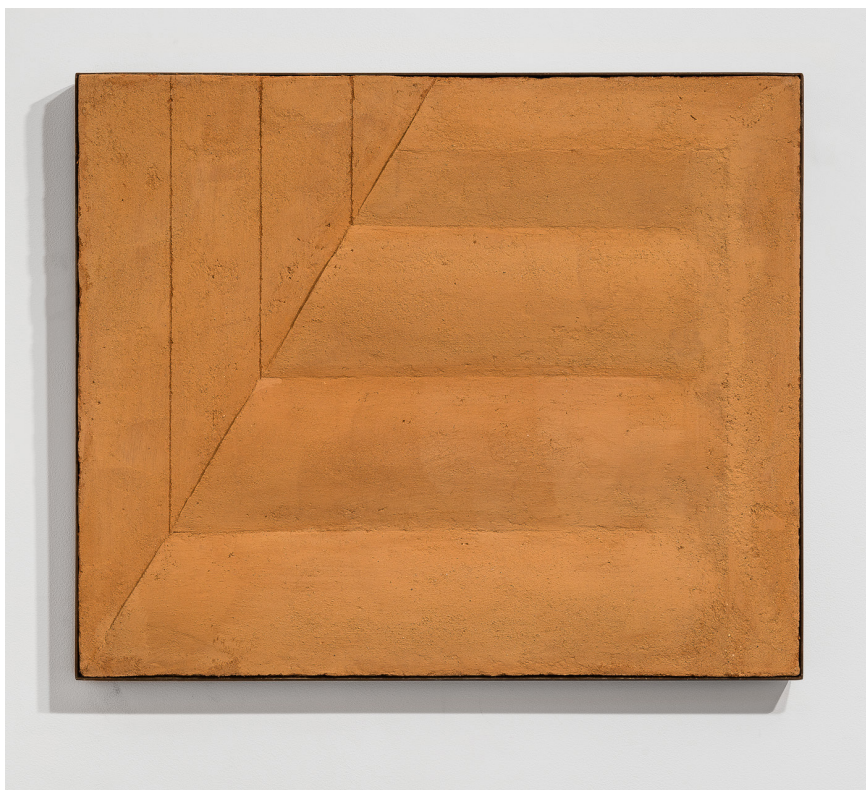
Dani Karavan
Knisot - Entrances, 2014
Earth sculpture and wood,
154,5 x 36 x 36 cm
© Grégory Copitet



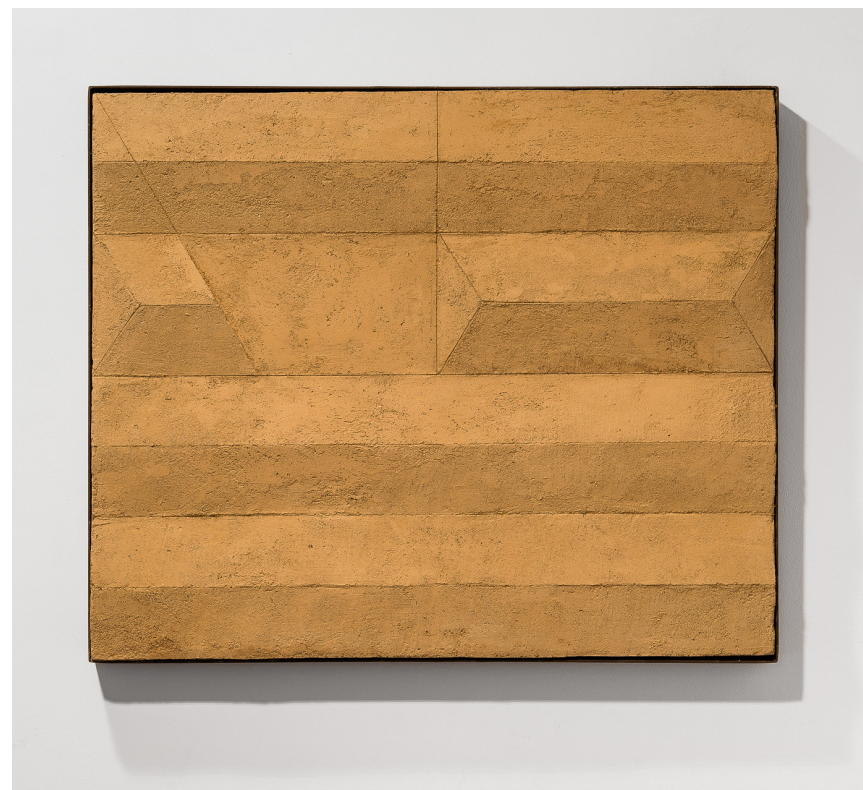
Dani Karavan
Hatzer - Courtyard, 2014,
Earth sculpture and wood,
133,5 x 36 x 36 cm
© Grégory Copitet



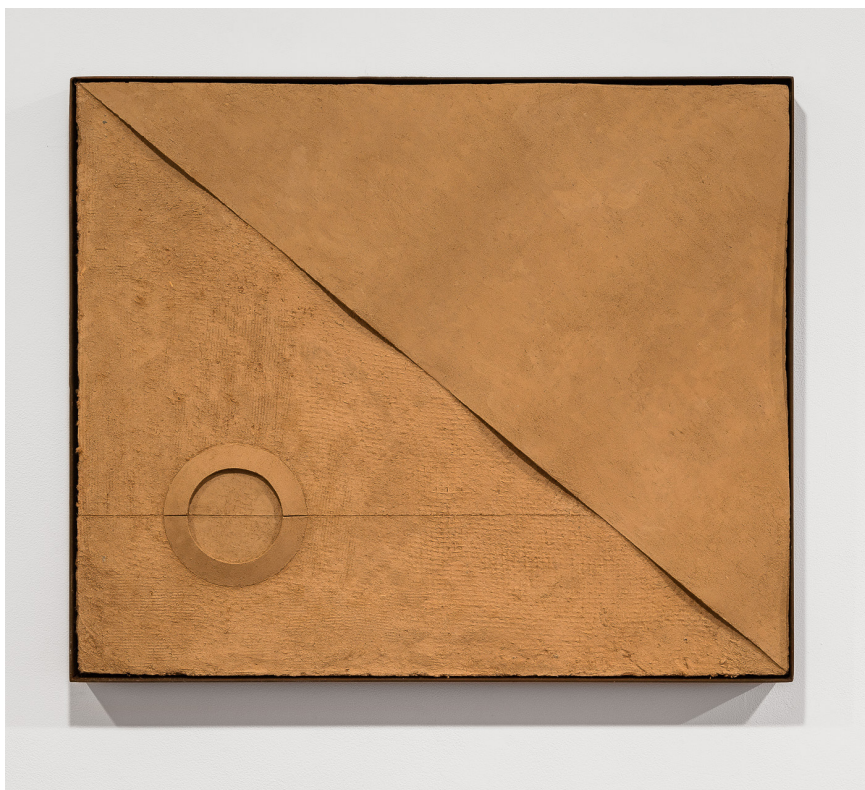
Dani Karavan
Bait - Home, 2014,
Earth sculpture and wood,
150,5 x 36 x 36 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Alachson - Diagonal, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



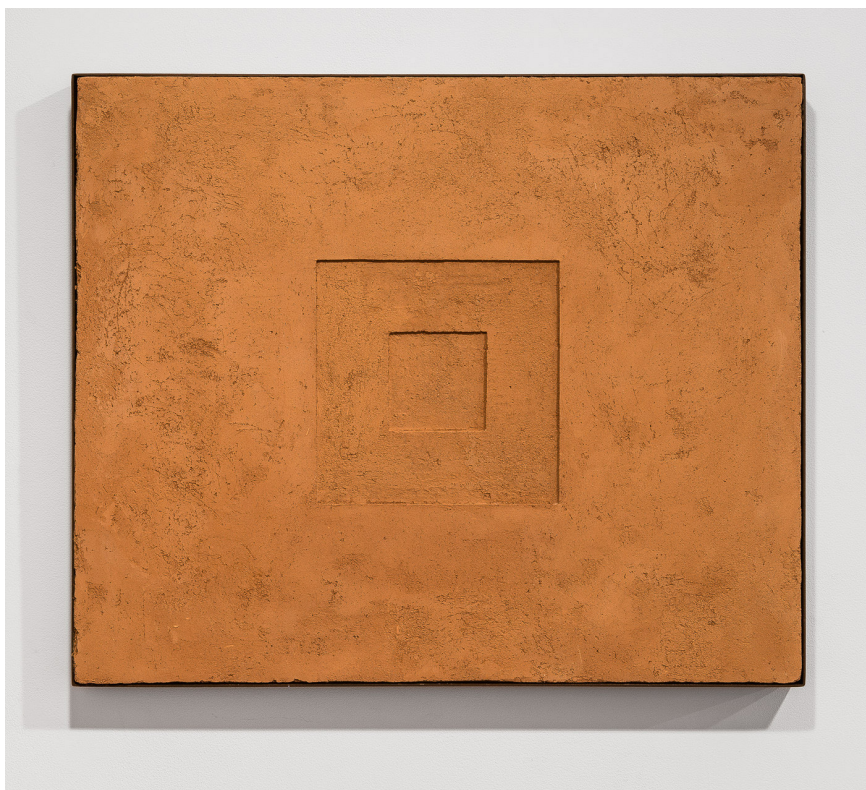
Dani Karavan
Ha'acher - The Other, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



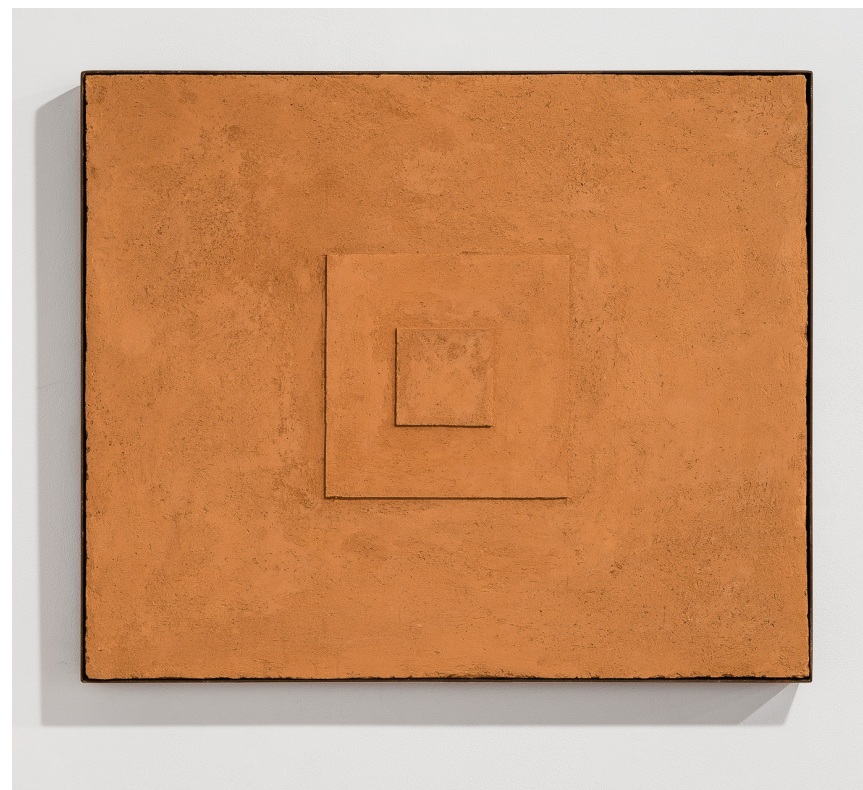
Dani Karavan
Meshulashim - Triangles, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Simanim - Traces, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Shakua - Negative, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



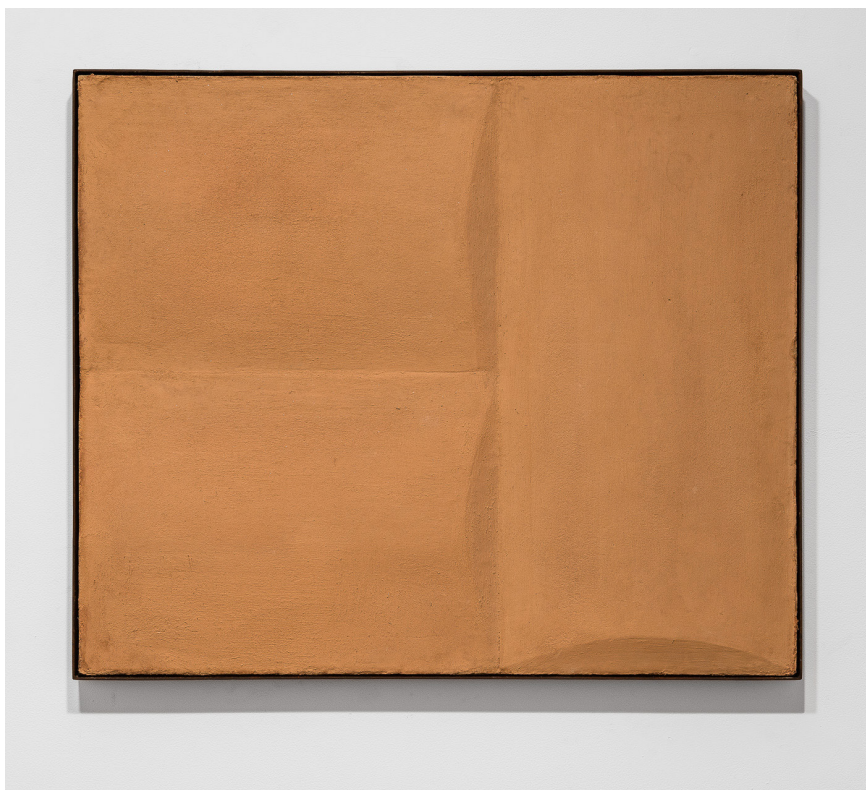
Dani Karavan
Bolet - Positive, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Reshet - Wire fence, 2015
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Vayachaloku - Division, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Sefer - Book, 2014
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Dani Karavan
Shinuy - Change, 2015
Earth sculpture,
50 x 60 x 5 cm
© Grégory Copitet



Exhibition view, solo show ADAMA, 2018-2019, Jeanne Bucher Jaeger Gallery, Paris, Marais © Grégory Copitet