



matter—an essence, a purpose. The body-garment-sculpture link leads to an intriguing point of contact: on one hand, she confronts absence and loss, while on the other, she witnesses the beauty surrounding her everyday. The secret lies in the image of the empty garment, produced by the juxtaposition of presence and absence within. It becomes a sign that represents traces, like a human shell whose body cannot be fully reconstructed according to its mold. Birkenfeld's garment becomes a potential receptacle in which a virtual body, or a "skin envelope," for the absent body may be modeled, like a coat without a body whose absence becomes a trigger in the realms of guided imagination. The presentation of this absence—gradually channeled to a sculpted act of styling—offers a medium of sorrow which transforms into a manifestation of beauty. It metamorphoses under Birkenfeld's hands into a moving force of vitality. Birkenfeld's sculptures have been exhibited under the sponsorship of the Bruno Art Group in galleries and art fairs around the world. Her other works can be viewed at Art Market, located beside the entrance to the Tel Aviv Port. (artmarketisrael.com)

“Out of Style” at the Lounge

Throughout December and January, sculptures by artist Anita Birkenfeld will be displayed in EL AL's King David Lounge at Ben-Gurion Airport / **Hana Kofler**

Anita Birkenfeld's work consciously addresses the affinity between art and fashion, and the links created between body and garment. Employing garments and objects as artistic images, Birkenfeld introduces new contexts, expanding the discussion beyond the world of fashion as attire alone. Fashion is the subtext of the works and the power driving the dialogue between the images combined on her catwalk.

Birkenfeld is an artist whose work is integral to her life. Although she avoids quintessential biographical markers, her life story is present in virtually all of her pieces. She arrived in the art world following a family catastrophe: Birkenfeld lost her daughter twelve years ago after battling severe illness.

She releases mental baggage at her studio, seeking refuge in the space

wherein she cuts herself off from the immediate physical world and shifts to other spheres. She goes "out of style" in her sanctuary—not in the sense of becoming outmoded, but rather by using fashion and style as a point of departure. She comes and goes from the world of fashion into the art world, where everything sheds and assumes form, becoming solid

