

NEW CERAMICS

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ulla viotti

"I had found
my religion:
nothing seemed
more important
to me than a book.
I saw the library
as a temple."

*From The Words,
the autobiography of
Jean-Paul Sartre (1964)*



A TEMPLE OF CLAY

SUNE NORDGREN

below -

Bibliotheca

archaeological library with authors names printed in to the brickbooks Kivik Art Center sculpture park, Sweden 2019 *photo - Mads Frederik*

In a sculpture park in south Sweden called Kivik Art Centre, dedicated to the collaboration between artists and architects, Ulla Viotti was acting in both roles in the summer of 2019 and created an artwork that took centre stage. Amongst architects and artists like Snøhetta from Norway, David Chipperfield and Antony Gormley from Great Britain, Sol LeWitt from USA, Petra Gipp and Gert Wingårdh from Sweden and Matti Suuronen from Finland, Ulla Viotti brought a new expression and a new material to the beautiful park by the Baltic Sea. A harmonious round form and made of the material that lies closest to her heart: bricks. She named her sculpture "Bibliotheca-archaeological library". A fortress saturated by memory of poetry and the narrative referring not only to guarding and defence but also to lively, struggling literature.

The sculpture is six metres wide and with walls two and a half meters high. Impressive



ULLA VIOTTI
Äppellunden 1
27238 Brantevik
Sweden
ulla@viotti.se
www.viotti.se
[homepage WABA](#)

dimensions, but on a human scale. Here the visitors are invited to wander through the meadow, towards the large sculpture with the sea in the background and onwards to the narrow entrance. Well through the eye of the needle you are surrounded by books and shelves made up by handcrafted black bricks. The names of well-known authors with their roots in the southern region are embossed onto the spine of the books.