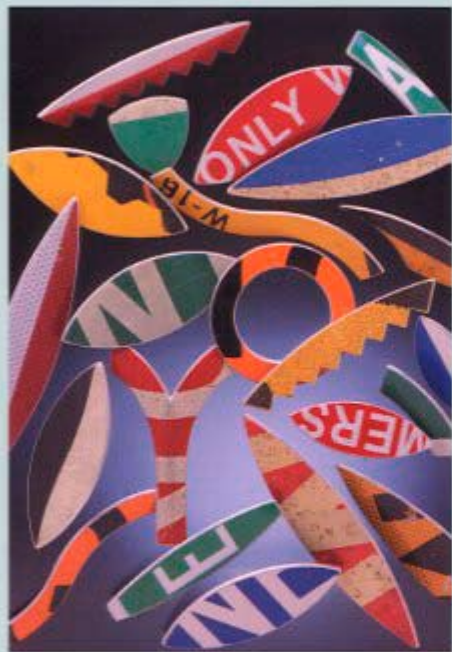
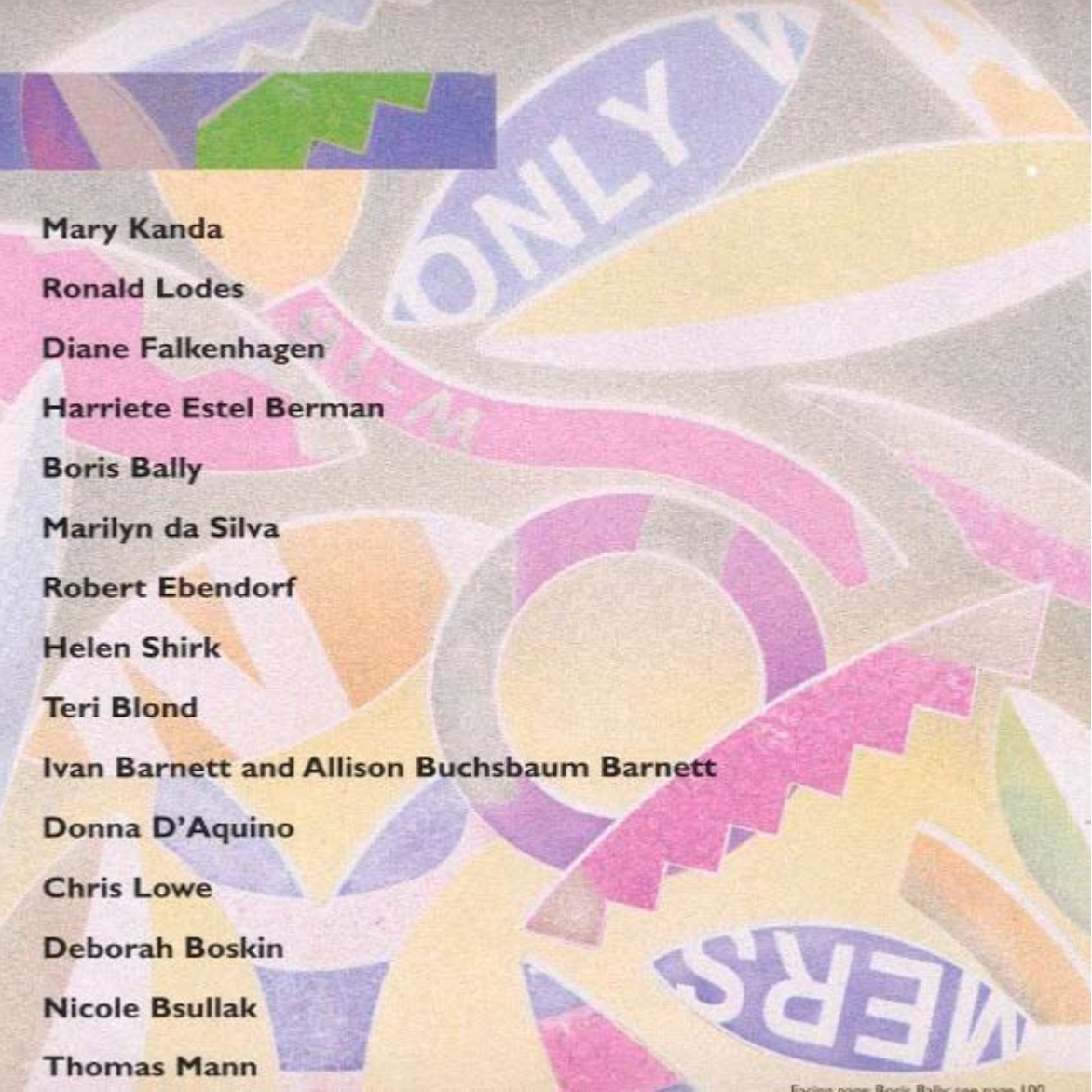


AVANT-GARDE



Jewelry and metalwork have always played a role in fashion; they are at home with the avant-garde. Today's jewelers and metalsmiths are finding rich opportunity for colorful expression with innovative materials and techniques.



Mary Kanda

Ronald Lodes

Diane Falkenhagen

Harriete Estel Berman

Boris Bally

Marilyn da Silva

Robert Ebendorf

Helen Shirk

Teri Blond

Ivan Barnett and Allison Buchsbaum Barnett

Donna D'Aquino

Chris Lowe

Deborah Boskin

Nicole Bsullak

Thomas Mann



BORIS BALLY

Until recently, color was not a part of Boris Bally's creative vocabulary; instead, he focused on form and composition. Although he found himself getting bored with the silver and ebony he was using, he was not drawn to conventional enameling or other traditional ways of applying color. Then, one day, he picked up a discarded traffic sign, became fascinated by the reflective, graphic-laden, weatherworn aluminum, and began a new body of work.

Bally's most difficult technical hurdle was to make this material wearable as jewelry. After trying several ideas, he designed a special swage connection to lock pinstems into the aluminum without the use of heat. The sign material is drilled partway through with a specially trimmed, flatter-than-usual, drill bit. A commercial jewelry finding is then seated in this blind hole. The finding is set, much as a precious stone would be, with a specially shaped

hollow punch that forces metal fingers over the hole to permanently trap the finding. The edges are carefully sanded, and then the pieces are sealed with a coat of Armor All Protectant.

To maximize the sign imagery, Bally developed a group of archetypal, geometric forms. Using these templates, he playfully appropriates the ready-made graphics, selecting images and shades of patinated colors from the palette of his urban vista. The shapes are then extracted by sawing. Edges are carefully sanded and hand filed, and then the pieces are scrubbed clean and sealed. With a jeweler's touch, they become less recognizable and transcend their designation as scrap to become glowing urban icons.

As a reminder that these materials have been legally acquired and recycled from a variety of state and local departments of public works, the brooch series bears the standard abbreviation of *DPW*.



Boris Bally, *DPW Brooches*, recycled traffic signs, 3" x 7" x 1/2". Photos by Dean Powell.