

DOER'S PROFILE



SQUARE DE-SIGN B.P.W. BROOCH® AND VITRIFIED DETRITUS SERIES. 2 1/4" x 2 1/4" x 1/8". Recycled aluminum traffic signs, gold and aluminum leaf handmade (pyrothermal-induction surface, pierced, fabricated, swaged). Photo: J.W. Johnson Photography.

DOER BORIS BALLY

DONE

Represented in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and the Museum of Art & Design (MAD), New York. Recent exhibitions include *Glasswear*, a collaboration between MAD and the Pforzheim Jewelry Academic; *The Japan Jewelry Art Competition 2008*; *Collected Metal* at the Obsidian Gallery, Tucson, Arizona; and *Second Lives: Remixing the Ordinary*, MAD's inaugural exhibition at new location.

DOING

A series of square De-Sign brooches; experimenting with alternative materials and new techniques.

FIRST PIECE

In 1974 I made a series of rings at the Pittsburgh Center of the Arts in a class taught by Steve Korpa. Where it is I can only guess.

JEWELRY HEROES

Family friend Johanna Dahm, who opened my eyes to contemporary jewelry; former apprentice master Alexander Schaffner, who taught me to see with my hands. I have long adored the works of Francesco Pavan, Bruno Martinazzi, and Gijs Bakker; also Alexander Calder, Eduardo Chillida, Chris Burden, David Tisdale, Otto Künzli, Francesco Pavan, Giampaolo Babetto, Tom Mann, Bob Ebendorf, Kiff Slemmons, Jonathan Bonner.

DESIGN SOURCES

Competitions, thematic shows, an interesting commission, a nice piece of new (old?) material, or a new tool. Industrial, architectural, structural details and their decay. Traffic signage and pop iconography; tribal, folk, and ritual objects; Medieval armor and weapons; machines, tools, motorcycles (and other dangerous things); mysterious found objects and the humor of life. Inspiration is like surfing: get into a good mental place and a good board, jump in, watch the waves, find the best wave, and go for it for as long as you can... then on to the next.

FAVORITE PART OF DOING

The small scale allows quick execution of ideas. My work has soul and conscience without pretension. I like to make metal sexy; it isn't easy with this cold, unforgiving medium. Creating a nice balance of concept with underlying messages, spiced with skill and made accessible to real people by being affordable, feels good to me. Mostly I enjoy making my work: I am proud of the calluses and cuts on my hands.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

I almost scored an amazing engraving machine... it was something like \$100 but had everything for engraving, trophies to inside of rings... it would have led to an amazingly cool new direction.

ON BENCH NOW

The next gun-trigger necklace in the *Bruce* series.

SEE MORE WORK @
www.BorisBally.com