

# The Artful Home™

Furniture, Sculpture & Objects



A Source & Guide for Living with Art

## TIPS FOR AN ARTFUL HOME

Industry Meets Art

The art you live with enriches your home all the more when it tells something about who you are. Think about this quality as you consider what kinds of artwork to acquire and where to display it. The bold, colorful dining table and chairs in this setting, for example, complement the industrial aesthetic of the

architecture while also expressing a great sense of fun and inventiveness. At the same time, they provide both a functional stage for dining and entertaining and an important focal point for the large open space. The tapestry in the background is a perfect abstract complement to the furniture.



Boris Baby home setting recycled traffic signs. Photograph: Jeff Johnson. See pages 50-51.

## BORIS BALLY

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Top left and top right: Transit Chairs, 2002, recycled aluminum traffic signs, champagne cork feet and hardware, each 48" x 14" x 21". Photographs: Jeff Johnson.  
Bottom: Urban Etnel Plates (collecting), 2001, recycled aluminum traffic signage and copper rivets, 35" x 25.5" Dia. or 1.5" x 16" Dia. Photographs: Dean Powell.

## TALKING TO THE ARTIST

### Boris Bally

A metalworker known for his industrial-strength designs, Boris Bally does not travel light. When he moved his home and studio from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Providence, Rhode Island, five years ago, he needed an 18-wheeler and a crane to haul a total of 36,000 pounds. "I tease my wife, who's a physician, all the time," he says. "She carries all of her work around with her in her head. I would rather drag my stuff around with me externally."

This "stuff" includes raw materials, machinery ranging from saws to a hydraulic press, and finished designs, mainly in the form of wearable sculpture and jewelry, flatware and furniture. Weighing in among his heaviest work—and also his most popular—is the *Transit Series*: bowls and chairs made out of aluminum street signs, which are bent into shape with great force.

Using street signs is more than a chance for the artist to flex some muscle, however. It's also an elegant form of recycling. "Our resources on the planet are finite, and the best test of an artist is how well we can use what we have at hand," says Bally.

His vision of art as recycling comes in part from his training as a goldsmith in Basel, Switzerland, shortly after high school. Given the value of gold, obsessive conserving is part of the trade. But Bally treats scraps of non-precious metal with the same kind of care. He frequents scrap yards and likes to walk his dogs straight to the neighbors' trash cans on garbage days. One of his biggest recycling projects has been collecting corks from around the world to use as feet for his *Transit Chairs*.

"I started using champagne corks as the feet of my *Transit Chairs*. The cork made the perfect foot because it's pliant and easy to replace. You just have to be willing to break open a champagne bottle in the name of art."

—Jori Finkel



Bob Thayer