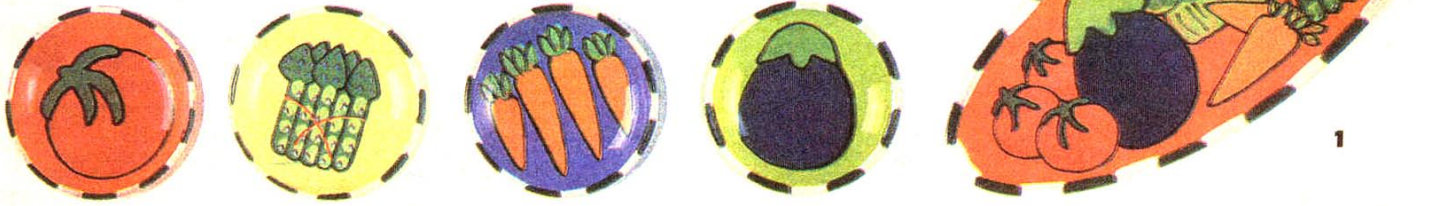
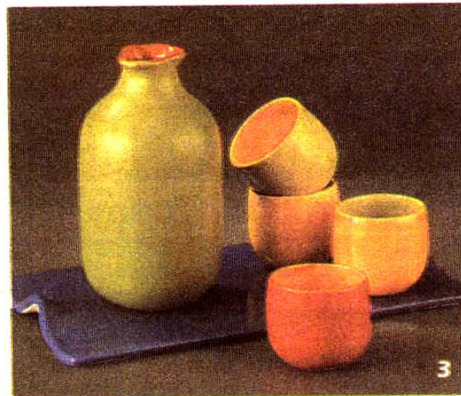


PARTY TIME!

BY ROSEMARY KNOWER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER



The coming of spring heralds a time when people want to emerge from the cave and enjoy a meal with friends. The Impressionists knew this and could paint a lemon on a blue platter or fling a handful of plump cherries into a lime-green bowl so that the sensual complement of food and sight added to the enjoyment of the diners. They understood that the useful accoutrements of the table also could be beautiful. And what better way to celebrate that annual rebirth of energy and joy than to gather people together over a good meal, served on splendid art? The artists below might have designed their works with the glorious bursting forth of springtime's color and bounty in mind.



Photograph by Jerry Anthony

1. Berry Silverman's Berryware is the perfect antidote to blah china. Silverman's platters, dishes and bowls come in a wide range of colorful patterns. She points out, "Now that women are working, entertaining is a much more casual affair. Many of us have sedate, elegant sets of fine china carefully wrapped and put away, and we bring out serveware with lots of color and verve for the table. It keeps us young — and spontaneous." Shown here, her set of four Single Veggie Individual Pasta Bowls, about \$37 each, are part of her vegetable series that includes platters, small servers and the Mixed Veggie French Bread Tray, \$110. Her work is available from Berryware; call 1-888-423-7799 or check out innovative designs at www.berrywareusa.com.

2. Nancy Galluzzo founded 3D&UP in 1993, offering a unique style of hand-painted, original cast and thrown pottery. "Our unique approach unites functional forms with colorful, whimsical imagery," says Galluzzo. Shown here, the Iris Design, available in platters, tiles and vases and priced from \$20 to \$110, is available from 3D&UP. Call 1-888-285-5002 or check out www.3dandup.com.

3. Judith Weber points out, "I have always believed that the objects you use every day should not only function superlatively but also enhance our lives aesthetically." Weber concentrates on creating art for the table, specializing in custom-designed accessories that exemplify elegant design and purity of form. Shown here, her "Multicolored Sake Set on Tray," cast earthenware sake bottle and cups with a hand-pressed tray, sold as a set, \$115. Available from www.guild.com and 1-877-344-8453.

4. Cris Conklin's bold animals and fish dance across her wheel-thrown stoneware. "I am endlessly inspired by the beauty of all living things," Conklin points out. Conklin begins with a smooth mixture of white stoneware and porcelain and throws or hand builds each piece. When the form is finished but still slightly soft, she brushes the surface with colored slip, draws a design and carves away the background to reveal the white clay beneath. Shown here, her "Bowl With Crab." Set of four, \$104, available from www.guild.com, 1-877-344-8453 and from the Tomlinson Gallery.

5. Ellen Reznick's Rezware reflects the exotic shapes, themes and colors of her work. Each piece is handmade and often embellished with sculptural additions that give the form a shape taken straight from the natural world. Reznick meticulously applies underglazes to the unfired terra cotta, usually layering three coats of color to create her trademarked opacity. Shown here, her "Harlequin Tumblers," \$40 each or \$160 for the set, are available from www.guild.com or by calling 1-877-344-8453.

6. W. Mitch Yung says of his work, "I have always enjoyed utilitarian art. My ceramic work explores an interplay of texture, form, surface and color in clay. I have had a love affair with wood-fired pots since I first saw slides of Korean Old Silla Dynasty pots and early American salt-glazed pottery with the flashes and coloration left from the fire." Shown here, Yung's Tumblers, \$25 each, are part of a series of bowls, teapots and bakers for the table. To order, contact the Missouri-based artist at 1-877-337-9227 or check out some of his ceramic artwork on the Web at www.mitchyung.com. •