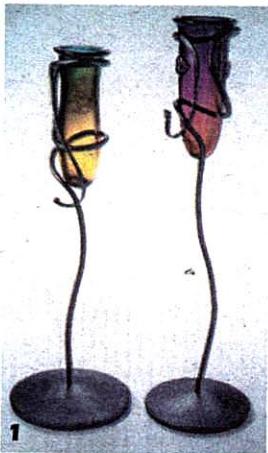


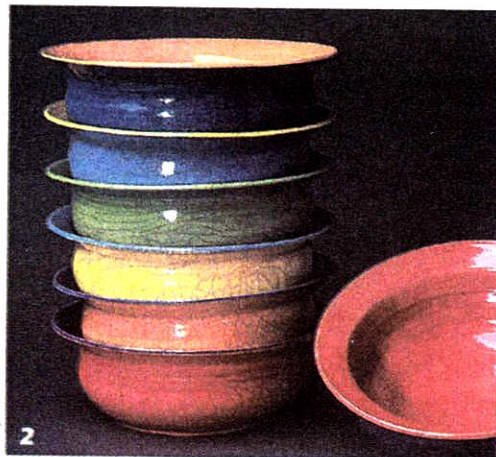
SERVE IT UP!

BY ROSEMARY KNOWER, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fall seems to be a perfect time for parties, from elegant formal dinners to chili suppers thrown together in the kitchen. Memorable evenings start out with good food and compatible guests, and go on from there. "Strange to see how a good dinner and feasting reconciles everybody," says Samuel Pepys, in his diary, and it is true that the crisp autumn air and the early sunsets invite sitting around a candlelit table and setting the world to rights over a savory meal. The artists below make things to enhance any entertainment.



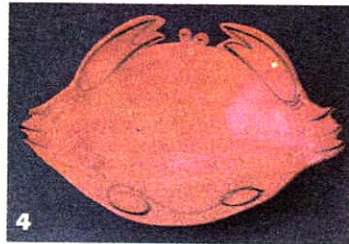
1. George Cirocco of Salamandra Glass Studios makes these delicate glass Morning Glory Vases, which are also available as wall pieces. "My work is mainly about color," says Cirocco, "and about allowing the fluidity of the molten glass to be shown in the final shape of the object I am making. The Morning Glory series is hand-blown, each one of a kind, combined with ten-



dril-like custom iron stands." Each is signed and dated by the artist, and is available in six color combinations, \$275-\$300. Available from Salamandra Glass, www.salamandraglass.com, 1-603-743-6553.

2. Amber Archer's raku-fired Spectrum Stackers, a set of seven brilliantly colored bowls ideal for serving everything from dips to

pasta, would be welcome on any table. "My work is influenced by growing up in New Mexico," says Archer. "The colors of the landscape, the brilliant contrasts and incredible light are huge influences." Bowl sets are available in small (2.5-by-6 inches, \$229), medium (2.75-by-7.5 inches, \$240) and large (3-by-9 inches, \$270). Available from www.guild.com, 1-877-344-8453.



3. Darryl Berry's fused glass Summer Sun Platter (12 inches, \$100) is part of a series that includes dipping bowls and plates (\$15 to \$38) all signed by the artist, and available in red or black. "The objects I create are meant to be a part of everyday living," says Berry, "used to decorate your meals, and not just your wall." To order, contact the artist at BerryGlass@cinci.rr.com,



or 513-325-9269.

4. Susanne Graham Storer transforms domestic and wild animals, crustaceans and fish into highly functional kitchenware. Shown here, Storer's Crab Whatnot Bowl, red stoneware clay, 11-by-8 inches, \$37.00, part of a colorful series of bowls, spoon rests, butter dishes and platters available in 12 different designs, including the cow, pig, cat,

sheep, moose, fish, lobster, penguin and toucan. Each crab bowl is individually hand formed of rolled clay and hand decorated; so that each is slightly different. Available from The Waygoose (www.TheWaygoose.com), 301-279-7525, or you can contact the artist at Suzanne Storer Ceramic Forms, 801-479-5035 for a source near you.

5. Mollie Massie's Crow Family Bar Stool would be ideal extra-guest seating for a Ravens game party. "The Crow Family Bar Stool is one of several pieces that I make multiples of, and that I call my 'Art To Live With,'" says Massie. "Each piece is hand-drawn and hand-cut with an oxygen acetylene torch from steel. My real love is functional work, and it runs the gamut from fireplace screens and tools to tables, chairs, mirror frames, gates—even cabinet pulls that I started making, using the cutouts from my tables. Most of my work is now by commission. The first stool in the series was for a family named Crow, and was inspired by the lively family of crows living in the backyard of our old house; that's why the mother crow is holding out a piece of

food to the younger ones." Crow Family Bar Stool, 45-by-17-by-20 inches, seat height 30 inches, \$1200, from The Guild (www.guild.com) or for custom orders, from the artist at www.myersmassiestudio.com, 1-604-266-5009.

6. Peter Harrison's elegant Barossa Wine Rack will fit nicely into any party scene. Shown here in Mahogany and Concrete with Graphite lines, 9-by-12-by-60 inches, \$995, the Barossa is also available in ash wood, part of Harrison's Lavassa line, which also includes benches, and tables handcrafted from select domestic and exotic woods and veneers. "The Barossa introduces the new element of concrete, which creates a beautiful combination with the wood, while counter-balancing the bottles of wine; so a small footprint provides stable security for your collection," Harrison points out. "Each wine rack is available plain or in a variety of pencil designs which range from subtle X's to bold, undulating waves, and each design is sealed with lacquer for a smudge-proof, maintenance-free finish." Available from the artist at www.lavassa.com, 1-914-443-3885. •

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What makes it even more spectacular, the homeowner explains, is that Maffei does her work without a pattern.

Among the couple's woven treasures is a stunning Torah scroll tapestry by Maryland artist Louise Wheatley. A mere 4-1/4 inches high, the intricate weaving was created with a discontinuous weft, where small portions of the piece are created bit by bit.

"This is very fine, meticulous work," says the lady of the home, who considers herself a "hobby weaver." "Many tapestry artists have 10 to 12 ends to the inch, or warp. She has about 22 ends to the inch. It's one of my favorite pieces."

Another unusual piece is of a macramé skull with long hair. Designed by Jan Buckman of Two Hills Studio in Wisconsin, the palm-sized piece consists of finely knotted waxed linen. "It's fascinating that this is molded so perfectly," she says. "When you first think of macramé, you think of those great knitted fat wool plant holders." This, she says, is far removed from that 1970s-era fad.

Since the husband's retirement from his internal medicine practice, the couple has had time to

build their collection through extensive travel in Europe, China, Thailand, Turkey, Greece, Moscow and Egypt.

In the home's workshop, weavings from around the world hang from the ceiling. One, from Egypt, measures 52 inches by 31 inches and depicts a village, fashioned in subtle grays and browns.

A red embroidered bullock cover, made in India, rests over the homeowner's own loom. These embroidered pieces from India represent the endeavors of a cooperative called Kala Raksha's Stone Soup project, organized after the devastating 2001 earth-

quake, she explains. Six communities of women artisans produce contemporary products based on their traditions.

Of the art—both by today's artists and unknown weavers around the globe, she says: "We have such an appreciation for this work and admire the things that are produced. I look at the work and know how artistically and technically demanding it is."

For certain, these collectors have found their niche. As they will say, whether one focuses on earlier tapestries or current works, the art behind these fiber collections is most apparent. •