GRAYSON PERRY: THE BLACK ARTS OF HAUTE COUTURE

PLUS SPOONLIVE DVD

SPOON
THE TASTE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Vase of Phases

IF I HAD A HAMMER
I'D BE A HIP DESIGNER

Lots of designers make vases. Dror BenShetrit breaks them. The Israeli-born principal of New York’s Studio Dror first gained widespread attention with his Vase of Phases, a white porcelain vessel for Rosenthal that is cast from an original that was smashed with a hammer and then dipped in a layer of slip. It’s a celebration of loss, chance and rehabilitation and, so he says, a metaphor for life and our experiences. BenShetrit is himself a product of Holland’s powerhouse Design Academy Eindhoven, and he often infuses his work with narrative, movement and transformation. His interior for the fashion designer Tadashi Shoji’s Manhattan boutique has a theatrical backdrop of undulating drapes made in plastic. His Lily Lace chair – which Rosenthal is producing next year in a limited edition – is a strong sheet wrapped in a Lily-shaped back made of oversletoned black lace. Indeed, the tension between fragility and resilience is a major theme for BenShetrit, whose more commercial projects currently include a shoe for a major athletic brand and advertisements for Bombay Sapphire. But, like any good designer, he is devious. That’s why he also made his Vase of Phases, as well as the Lily Lace chair, in black.

“White is pure,” he says, “but black is more seductive.”

ASJC CHEN

www.studio-dror.com www.rosenthaldie.com

Spoon July 2005
Vase of Phases

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SNOWDON. JULY 2005