

SPOON™

THE TASTE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

GRAYSON PERRY: THE BLACK ARTS OF HAUTE COUTURE

PLUS SPOONLIVE DVD

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Vase of Phases



IF I HAD A HAMMER

I'D BE A HIP DESIGNER

Lots of designers make vases Dror Benschetrit 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 rumination on lost innocence and rehabilitation and, so he says, "a metaphor for life and our experiences". Benschetrit 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 Yigal Azrouël's Manhattan boutique has a theatrical backdrop of undulating drapes made in plaster. His Lily Lace chair - which Rosenthal is producing next year in a limited edition - is a fibreglass seat wrapped in a lily-shaped back made of resin-stiffened black lace. Indeed, the tension between fragility and resilience is a major theme for Benschetrit, whose more commercial projects currently include a new shoe for a major athletic brand and advertisements for Bombay Sapphire. But, like any good designer, so is desire. 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."

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