

TODD PINZUTI
SPECIAL EVENT DESIGNER,
ENTERTAINER EXTRAORDINAIRE

You're known for doing great floral arrangements for your special events, but which florist would you recommend to the rest of us?

Bastian Skoog—they can do insanely over the top arrangements, or very smart and clever looks with big impact. I love that they don't believe that it's all about how much you can spend.

Where do you find the best stuff for your house?

I love Odds 'n Ends—I can always find something there. Hunt and Gather is great, too; they do a good job presenting their materials, and it's all priced well. And one of my all-time favorite stores is Ax-man. That place is amazing! You can buy giant bags of marbles or BBs or ballbearings, dump them in an interesting container and it will look great on the table.

You're known for turning offbeat things into great containers or props for parties. Do you have a secret source?

OK, I really love Fleet Farm. It's so insanely random! They have the biggest candy selection you've ever seen, next to shovels, which are next to the guns. I love it! I recently found these great galvanized feeding troughs there, which I used at a big party I did. Keep your eyes open and you'll find something fun at Fleet Farm.

Tell us something fun we could do to liven up our next party.

Project images on the dining room wall—actually, it works anywhere, inside or outside. Say it's a 40th birthday party: Gather up lots of shots of the birthday girl or guy, and take them down to National Camera. They will make each photo into a slide. Then you just have to find an old slide projector. It's fun to tuck the projector into someplace random so it's not apparent where the images are coming from.

Fun. Anything else?

I also like to do interesting lighting for parties. Pick up a fluorescent light tube, wrap it in red cellophane and lay it down behind the couch. You'll get this great red wash of light on the wall—or whatever color you choose.

Do you give hostess gifts?

Always. I'm a big believer in hostess gifts. I like to give magazine subscriptions—it's so easy, and you can really personalize it. You're probably stopping at the grocery store anyway, so grab a magazine you know your hostess will like, take out the subscription card, then roll it up and wrap a ribbon around it. Then tell your host that he'll be getting the magazine for the next year. It's the kind of gift that says, "I was thinking about you..."

EARL GUTNIK
EXPERT COLLECTOR OF ART
AND OBJECTS

Where are you shopping this month?

I always go to Art-A-Whirl and the best building is Northrup King. Do not miss this one. There is such a great volume of talented artists and great shops that anyone will find something to love.

What's new on your shopping radar that readers should know about?

Spinario, the new store at the corner of 13th and 2nd in North-east. This place is great for collectors interested in mid-century—I recently bought some chairs and dinnerware at very fair prices.

You're a flea market junkie: What's on the calendar for May?

I invite METRO readers to join me at the Elko Trader's Market on Memorial Day weekend. It's an easy drive down 35W, and the setting is very picturesque. You can even bring your dog! The specialty is rustic furniture—perfect for the cabin or porch or garden. Watch for an admission coupon in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. I recommend this outing as a great kick off to your junking season.

What are you collecting right now?

Scandinavian glass ornaments, either Holmegaard or Arabia. These clear or colored press glass ornaments were produced in the '60s—they're very organic, with different critters or folklore imagery embedded in the glass. Hang them from a small nail on a piece of fish line, and you get the vitality, the color that stained glass provides—without the investment.

Where do you find them—and are they spendy?

Try Succotash. Prices are very affordable—from about \$9 up to \$30. I've also found some nice pieces at the Missouri Mouse on the lower level—those dealers will also have other glassware that will complement the ornaments.

Is this a good time to buy art and objects?

Just like stocks, the time to purchase collections is not when things are at their peak. In most Twin Cities antiques stores right now, you'll find most things priced 20 to 30 percent off, and you should definitely bargain. It's not a great time to sell objects, but if you have cash, this is a very good time to find a deal.



**GET
CONNECTED**

EARL GUTNIK

earlgutnik@comcast.net

ART-A-WHIRL

May 16–18
nema.org

**NORTHRUP KING
BUILDING**

1500 Jackson St. N.E.
Minneapolis
northrupkingbuilding.com

SPINARIO DESIGN

1300 2nd St. N.E.
Minneapolis
spinariodesign.com

MISSOURI MOUSE

1750 Selby Ave.
St. Paul

SUCCOTASH

781 Raymond Ave.
St. Paul

TODD PINZUTI

Bungalow 6 Design
bungalowsix.com

AX-MAN

In St. Paul, St. Louis
Park, & Fridley
ax-man.com

HUNT & GATHER

4944 Xerxes Ave. S.
Minneapolis
huntandgather-antiques.com

ODDS 'N ENDS

4241 Nicollet Ave. S.
Minneapolis
oddsnendsonline.com

BASTIAN SKOOG

310 N. 2nd St.
Minneapolis
bastianskoog.com