

Thrill of the hunt

Finding beauty in the strangest places



Collective couple Joy and Mark Indursky run the design and collectibles business, Lost Found Art LLC. Here, they stand in front of some of the collectibles that fill their North Stamford home.

By Beth Cooney

When Mark Indursky found the hulking, metal hospital gurney at a flea market, all he could see was potential.

His wife, Joy, saw a piece of bulky, ugly junk. And morbid junk at that. "I said, 'That's it, Mark. Enough. You have really gone too far this time.'"

Mark reached for his wallet, signaling to Joy she would have to learn to live with the gurney. For in that 1950s relic, Mark saw good design, vintage materials and "a really cool chaise if you add some purple cushions."

"Look at it," he says, contorting the old metal to show off its flexibility. Months after taking it home, he continues to champion its off-beat, retro good looks and potential as a home furnishing, although it remains in his basement workshop. "I mean, add the upholstery and it's going to be neat. And I bet

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A world in detail "Betty" in closeup is a feast for the eyes. Often the Indurskys use clients' personal items to complete the project. "Things like old charms or pieces of letters or invitations, little things people have been hanging onto for years," Joy Indursky says.



Form and sound Vintage microphones are paired with a dressmaker's form named "Betty." The couple have fun creating commissions that resemble Betty, their original sculpture based on the 1930s concept of memory jars. The couple glues items such as stamps, buttons, Cracker Jack toys, discarded jewels and coins on mannequins or busts to create colorful, personal mosaics.

Photos by Andrew Sullivan

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really comfortable, too." Joy is still adjusting to the idea of living with it. "He has come home with a lot of strange things; some of them I love. That one was the strangest."

This is how things work at the Indursky home in North Stamford, where Mark, a gatherer of items kitschy, cool and sometimes strange, has turned his finds into design statements that make the couple's country residence a funky, gallery-like setting. Some of their decor is for sale, or at least functions as a livable example of what Mark can do when he hunts, gathers and creates displays for his growing clientele.

"We are definitely eclectic," says Joy, a former fashion merchandiser who manages the couple's design and collectibles business, Lost Found Art LLC. "I've had some people here who

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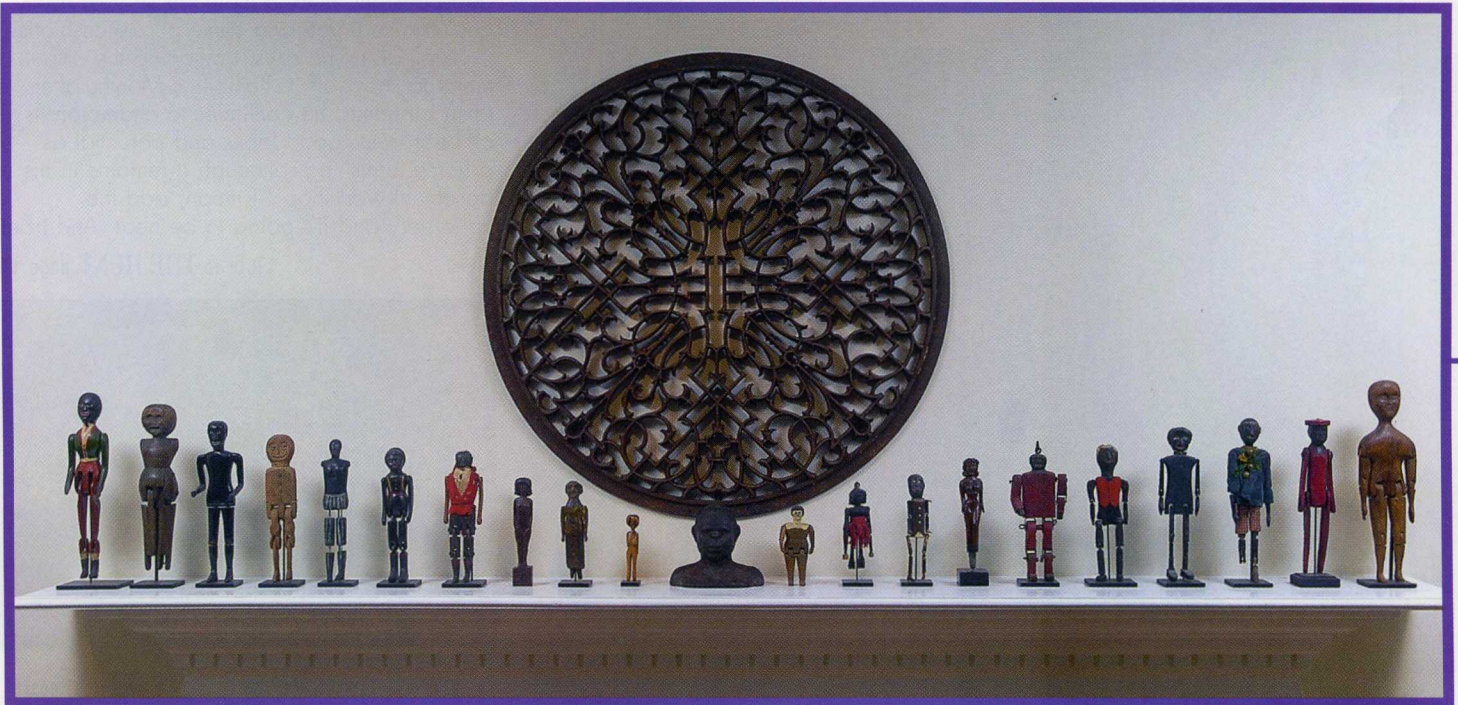
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For those who can appreciate the couple's distinctive design sense, a visit to the Indursky home is, as Mark says, "like opening a box of eye candy."

Their kitchen walls pop with vintage metal lunch boxes from shows such as "Julia," "Charlie's Angels," "The Partridge Family" and "Planet of the Apes." Antique ice fishing decoys are suspended from walls in the guest bath. Old casino gaming wheels and pinball machines greet visitors to the family room.

The visual treats are everywhere, even in the upstairs study lounge of their 12-year-old daughter, Maris. There, her father hung his growing collection of vintage toy ray guns mounted on a key lime-green board. The collection was inspired by the 1997 movie, "Men in Black," and the retro superhero guns actors Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones carried.

"We are not about chintz and toile," says Mark. "I like things that pop and create visual interest because of their texture or design or a one-of-a-kind quality." Hence, there are furnishings such as vintage spools of colorful thread mounted on a glass tabletop — an ode to the couple's years in the fashion business — and wine corks strung together for curtains. Their kitchen table is a traditional, light pine, but the orange plastic chairs add a



Standing guard Mark Indursky's passion right now is for articulated figures, rather crude toys from the 1800s and beyond, which he displays on the mantel in his North Stamford home. Notice the figures' detail in the picture at top.

