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Basket Case Study

Mold a modernist bowl from construction-site refuse
 by Paul Schifino
 photo credit: Aya Brackett

This orange netting was left over from an art piece I installed in an abandoned church in Braddock, Pennsylvania (see "Captain of Industry," August/September 2007). I was drawn to the material because it was the same stuff the nuns used to restrain me with when I acted up in school. But that's another story ... Anyway, I didn't want to chuck it, so I thought I'd pull a ReadyMade and turn it into something useful and beautiful.

Basket Case Study



INGREDIENTS

- Orange construction netting

TOOLS

- Ruler
- Scissors
- Wok lid
- Screwdriver
- Aluminum foil
- Oven
- 3 small flowerpots
- Oven mitts
- Newspaper

MAKE IT

1. I once saw a bowl made from melted toy soldiers in ReadyMade, and I figured I could make a nice "woven" bowl by applying the same principle here. The first thing I did was cut two circles, 19" in diameter, out of construction netting.
2. My wok lid had a nice shape to it, so I removed the wooden knob and covered the outside with aluminum foil.
3. With the rack in the lowest position, I set three small flowerpots in the center of my oven and placed the lid on top. 4. I turned on the oven, and when it hit 400°, I carefully centered the two pieces of netting on top of the wok.
5. With the oven door closed and the light on, I watched and waited. In a couple of minutes the netting began to melt.
6. When the pieces draped completely over the wok lid, I turned off the oven, removed the whole thing (flowerpots and all), and set it on newspaper I'd laid out

on the countertop.

7. Once it cooled, I pulled the netting off the lid and admired my new orange crush.

{Safety First} If you're concerned about fumes, you're right to be. Make sure to work in a well-ventilated place, or "cook" your bowl on an outdoor barbeque.

{ tip } If you can't find any netting to salvage, buy a roll at utilitysafeguard.com.