



MAY | JUNE 2012

Two New Views of Tires

Gae Aulenti | *Tour Table*

Nils Holger Moormann | *Bookinist Reading Chair*



VISIT THE BMA
and see *Tour Table*
and *Bookinist*.

Gae Aulenti. Italian, b. 1927. Detail, *Tour Table*. 1993 design; this example c. 2010. Ground glass, stainless steel, chromium-plated metal, rubber. 28 x 47 ³/₁₆ x 47 ³/₁₆ inches. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Decorative Arts Acquisitions Endowment established by The Friends of the American Wing, BMA 2010.35. Courtesy of the Artist and FontanaArte

Nils Holger Moormann. German, b. 1953. Detail, *Bookinist Reading Chair*. 2007 design; this example 2008. Foil-covered birch plywood, felt, rubber, aluminum, chintz. 31 x 29 ³/₈ x 30 ¹/₂ inches. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Purchase with exchange funds from Gift of Jim Piper, Gift from the Estate of Aleeza Cerf-Beare, and Bequest of Gertrude Rosenthal, BMA 2008.141. © Nils Holger Moormann GmbH

You guessed it! The legs on this table are bicycle wheels—four elegantly thin rubber tires mounted on shiny chromium-plated rims with spokes radiating outward from each axle like silver threads. These are not old beat-up tires sullied by the dirt and grit of a roadbed. They are brand new, sparkling clean tires, attached to rotating casters. From any angle—above, below, or to the side— every part of each wheel is visible. In fact, the table almost demands that its transparent glass surface be kept clear of any accumulation of papers or books that would obstruct the view. With a little push, *Tour Table* can spin around but obviously wasn't built for speed. Nevertheless, Gae Aulenti designed her table to celebrate the superfast Tour de France, a 2,000 mile bicycle race over flat and mountainous terrain that attracts international attention for 21 days every summer. Read about the 2012 Tour de France at www.letour.fr/us

Nils Holger Moormann designed *Bookinist* for the serious reader who likes to move his chair from one part of a room to another. The plump inflated rubber tire allows him to lift and push the heavy chair forward as if it were a wheelbarrow. *Bookinist* comes supplied with everything an avid reader might need: lamp, cup holder, and a drawer neatly concealed under the armrest for bookmarks, pencils, pencil sharpener, magnifying glass, and notebook. Best of all, open spaces at the ends of the armrests and backrest and along the lower sides of the chair are just the right size to hold 80 paperback books, transforming *Bookinist* into a movable bookshelf. Letters clearly imprinted on the tire warn, "Not for highway use."

CHALLENGE FOR STUDENTS

Draw an original design for furniture that uses tires in an unconventional way.

See how *Tour Table* looks when viewed at eye level at bit.ly/L5397f

See how *Bookinist* looks with books on the bookshelves at bit.ly/bO21U7

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FOR YOUR STUDENTS.**



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Gae Aulenti. *Tour Table.*

1993 design; this example c. 2010. Ground glass, stainless steel, chromium-plated metal, rubber. 28 x 47 ³/₁₆ x 47 ³/₁₆ inches. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Decorative Arts Acquisitions Endowment established by The Friends of the American Wing, BMA 2010.35. Courtesy of the Artist and FontanaArte



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Nils Holger Moormann. *Bookinist Reading Chair*.

2007 design; this example 2008. Foil-covered birch plywood, felt, rubber, aluminum, chintz. 31 x 29 3/8 x 30 1/2 inches. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Purchase with exchange funds from Gift of Jim Piper, Gift from the Estate of Aleeza Cerf-Beare, and Bequest of Gertrude Rosenthal, BMA 2008.141. © Nils Holger Moormann GmbH