



Each month, ELLE DECOR asks an artisan to create a unique item for us. At the end of the year, these pieces will be auctioned off to benefit the charity of ED's choice.

Go to Pieces

BDDW'S TYLER HAYS BRINGS
ART AND CRAFT TO THIS
ONE-OF-A-KIND JIGSAW PUZZLE.

PRODUCED BY PARKER BOWIE LARSON
PHOTOGRAPH BY ALLIE HOLLOWAY

Tyler Hays, founder of the Philadelphia-based design brand BDDW, has earned a cult following for his beautifully crafted handmade furniture, including walnut-slab dining tables and credenzas featuring delicate hardware. Hays has also put his stamp on ceramics and clothing, and more recently he's even ventured into jigsaw puzzles for his New York boutique, M. Crow. This unique *Bather* puzzle consists of nearly 500 hand-painted, cut, and shellacked

wooden pieces that have been permanently affixed to a custom oak frame measuring 58 by 82 inches. Hays's imagery pays homage to the 19th-century European artistic ideal of the bather, while its format coolly elevates the status of the common jigsaw puzzle into the realm of art.

"When you cut something into a puzzle, you take away all the pretense, and I like that," Hays observes. And puzzle this out: When it comes to his enigmatic bather, there's no assembly required.

—Samantha Swenson bddw.com