

Home

The New York Times

CURRENTS



SHOWS

Mixing Man's Work With Nature's

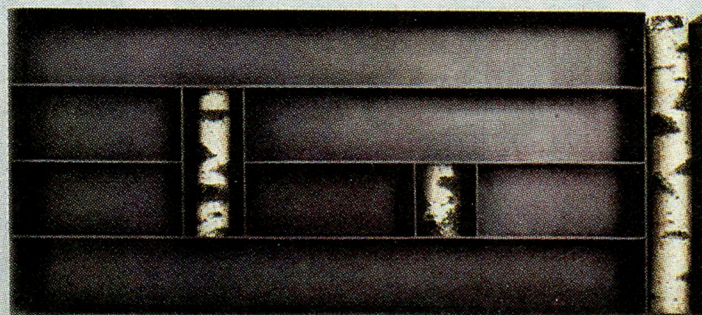
◀ The Italian designer Andrea Branzi, 73, has been integrating rocks and trees into household objects for some 30 years. His Animali Domestici collection from 1985 featured laminate chairs with backrests of raw birch. A decade later, he hollowed containers out of stones and lumps of wood.

This week, the Friedman Benda gallery in Manhattan opened "Trees and Stones," a show of Mr. Branzi's latest furniture combining chunks of nature with machined materials. Branches are fit into cabinet compartments or extend against backdrops of mirror-polished aluminum. Rocks sit like heroic busts on a forest of metal pedestals.

To show how the furniture takes on a different life when used, Mr. Branzi borrowed a few antiquities, including a 6,000-year-old Egyptian vase from the collection of Marc Benda, a founder of the gallery. "I don't think they need it, to be honest," Mr. Benda said. "They're strong, stand-alone works."

Through Oct. 13 at 515 West 26th Street (10th Avenue); (212) 239-8700 or friedmanbenda.com.

JULIE LASKY



Lasky, Julie. "Mixing Man's Work with Nature's." *New York Times*, September 13, 2012.

FRIEDMAN BENDA 515 W 26TH STREET NEW YORK NY 10001

FRIEDMANBENDA.COM TELEPHONE 212 239 8700 FAX 212 239 8760