

# food&home

**A feast for St George in the Caucasus** The whizziest blenders  
Robin Hanbury-Tenison, eco all-rounder  
**Can you be online and green?** A perfectionist's apartment

## All in one piece

Sparkling silverware shaped from a single sheet of metal

### The exuberant silversmith

Ndidi Ekubia beats and planishes the surfaces of her pieces to an unusual degree, creating a wonderfully worked and rippled effect that dazzles as it catches the light. Most of her objects are functional and made from a single sheet of silver. The Swirl champagne bucket she is holding is one of five – a similarly large one sold for £4,500 last month at the opening night of Collect Craft Fair (at the Victoria and Albert Museum), while smaller ones cost £1,800. 'The price of silver is going up and up,' Ekubia explains – which means a considerable investment in every piece she makes.

Ekubia originally studied 3D design at Wolverhampton, and discovered her metier when she was taught chasing and repoussé work on a small piece of metal. 'I thought it was fascinating and couldn't wait to go bigger!' She then spent a year at Bishopsland Workshops in Oxfordshire – 'very beautiful, but I'm a city girl from Manchester, so the countryside was quite a shock' – where its founder Penelope Makower introduced her to silver. She went on to complete a postgraduate course at the Royal College of Art, where she developed her 'obsession with using one piece of metal – no joins' and also took on commissions such as an ablutions bowl and jug for Winchester Cathedral.

Since leaving in 1998 she has been much in demand, and after nearly a decade in which she has held a Crafts Council residency and done much teaching in schools, she is finally supporting herself by her work alone.

*Ndidi Ekubia's silver is on show March 21-27 with the Metal Gallery at the BADA Antiques & Fine Art Fair, Duke of York Square, London SW3 (020-7589 6108; bada-antiques-fair.co.uk)*

**Photograph by Tobias Harvey**

