



The decor at this year's Whitney Museum of American Art gala in New York emphasized materials familiar to artists, such as paintbrushes and sketch pads. Playful centerpieces included table numbers imprinted on silver paint cans.



In Los Angeles last May, nearly 300 artists and art patrons celebrated the Santa Monica Museum of Art's 25th anniversary at the museum's second annual Precognito gala dinner. Table numbers were painted directly onto the white paper tablecloths.



Here's an on-theme idea for a rustic farm-to-table dinner: At last year's Lowline "Anti-Gala," moss-filled Mason jars served as table numbers.



At the seventh annual Call of the Game dinner in March, held at South Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, painted guitars served as centerpieces. Oversize guitar picks displaying numbers let guests know at which table to sit



The tables at a graffiti-theme bar mitzvah designed by David Stark Design and Production, held at Center548 in New York, displayed numbers on spray-paint cans.



For a wedding produced by AaB Creates at the Altman Building in 2012, the table numbers popped out of the pages of open books. The numbers were carved out of the books' pages using an X-Acto knife.



Large graphic table numbers provided the bulk of the decor during the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum's National Design Awards gala in 2011.



Designer David Stark used fluorescent tape provided by 3M to create much of the decor for the National Design Awards gala in 2011. At some of the tables, rolls of the colorful tape added a decorative element to platforms displaying large-scale table numbers.



1981

Instead of going in numerical order at the October 2011 dinner for Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art's anniversary, each table number represented an important year in the museum's 75-year history.



Last year, the National Association for Catering and Events hosted its annual fund-raising gala at the Liaison in Washington, where design elements drew inspiration from classic fairy tales. To add an enchanted-forest feel to the dining table centerpieces, table numbers were spray painted on wood slabs.



Plexiglas table number displays added a reflective element to the tables at a local college prep school's 75th anniversary gala, held in 2010 at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida.



To fit in with the "Passport to the World" theme at the Children's Place Association's Once Upon a Time gala in Chicago in 2009, table numbers were printed on faux passports.



Southern California event designer Jesi Haack came up with the brilliant idea to use mylar balloons as table numbers. The gold balloons complemented the wedding's other gilded details, like the shiny Chiavari chairs. Plus, they bring a hint of whimsy to the celebration.



Chalkboard Planter: Let some of your wedding elements work double duty. Case in point: These wooden planters function as reception-table centerpieces, but they also feature chalkboard sides, which means you can enlist your best friend with impeccable handwriting to work her magic on the table numbers.



Vintage Mirrors: If your event has a vintage aesthetic, start collecting antique mirrors from local flea markets. Then use a marker specifically designed for glass to letter the mirrored surface with each table number.



Amber Jugs: This idea is perfect if you're hosting your reception at a rustic farm or barn. Collect antique amber jugs and bottles, remove the labels, then carefully paint each table number on the sides.



Pop Art: If you're going for a more colorful vibe for your wedding, check out these fun soup-can table numbers. The bright custom labels have a wonderfully retro Andy Warhol feel.



Vintage Plates: Throwing a vintage-themed celebration? Repurpose pretty dinner plates as table numbers. Source them from local antique shops and flea markets, letter each table number using a gold marker, then display them on affordable acrylic plate stands.