



abner henry

"I had to call a friend and ask, 'Who's the Met?" Amish furniture maker Ernest Hershberger recalls, describing his reaction when the New York museum approached him to collaborate on a series inspired by its permanent collection. Soon put wise, the rural Ohiobased woodworker and his son, LaVern, trolled the institution's furniture archives for creative fodder before eventually homing in on Impressionist paintings. Made by craftspeople in his closed community, the Abner Henry x The Met collection's seven pieces range from Pirouette, a console with wavy painted-wood layers mimicking the tutus in Edgar Degas's The Dance Class, to Severine, a console whose end-grain blocks reference the pointillism of a Georges Seurat canvas. The walnut tops of **Duet** nesting tables, inspired by the tender bond seen between a mother and son in an 1874 Edouard Manet painting, are treated to 24-karat gold dust sealed with an unobtrusive glaze. The collection is deeply tied to spiritual teachings. "One day I was walking through the workshop, frustrated it wasn't coming together," the elder Hershberger recalls. "Scripture and biblical principles helped me find a way through. That's when they came to life." abnerhenry.com >

