In a city known more for its colonial history than for contemporary art, local artist Bill Thompson makes contributions to the field that'll take you way off the Freedom Trail. At his exhibition “Dialects,” on view at Barbara Krakow Gallery until next Wednesday, works like Loop (2007)—a shiny green form that is not as 3-D as a cube, not as flat as a rectangle, and has rounded edges that give relevance to its title—seem to reinvent shapes. His works defy easy categorization: His slabs of colorful acrylic urethane and epoxy block, designed to hang on walls, combine elements of sculpture and painting, though they lean toward the former. The pieces don’t depict something; rather, they are something (though that “something” is hardly definable). BE-AU-TY (2007), for instance, a deconstructed yin-yang triptych, is as balanced as its name, and KK5 (2007) enhances and beautifies common corrugated cardboard.