

Kumeur
(2000-2004) by
Annette Messenger

ABC 3D
by Marion
Bataille (9,99,
Bloomsbury)

DESIGN

The joy OF TEXT

Brooch, £33, Tatty
Devine for Ashish

This spring, artists and designers are playfully spelling out their messages across clothing, furniture and other cool creations. *BY EMMA LOVE*

'Pavement poetry' by Sebastian Faulks

Skirt, £185,
Laura Lees

Tea towel, £7,
Emma Bridgewater

Like words, verbal expressions,' says French artist Annette Messenger, whose retrospective 'Les Messagers', including a number of text works, opens at the Hayward Gallery in London on 4 March. 'For me there is no difference between a picture, a photo, a text or a drawing.'

Text certainly seems to be everywhere, from manhole covers installed last year in Notting Hill bearing bons mots by writers including Sebastian Faulks to designer Laura Lees' S/S 09 collection embroidered with slogans and lyrics ('I ♥ Top Gear', 'Die Young, Stay Pretty'). 'It lets people know what you're about - symbols can only say so much,' says Lees.

You can now fill your home with words, words words: Emma Bridgewater's sweet tea towel in praise of downtime; Pedlars' witty prints and Edwardian enamelled letters; John Derian's trays reproducing emotional typed missives between an apparently estranged couple; and designers Barnaby Barford and André Klausner's Conversation Cushion, containing pull-out printed questions - just in case you run out of things to say.

Artist Ed Ruscha - long renowned for his deft use of text - will be following Messenger with a major show at the Hayward. London cross-stitcher Kate Westerholt creates samplers with mottos such as 'I wanna rock and roll all night' (on sale at the Affordable Art Fair, 12-15 March). And New York-based artist Matthew Brannon uses acerbic pronouncements ('You keep the art. I'll take the house') on his letterpress prints - his work will be on show at the Approach gallery in September.

Or, for something more personal, consult Willow Corbett-Winder at Willow Rose Boutique, who will turn your special dates, jokes and memories into pertinent pieces in colourful newspaper text. □

Ceramic tile,
£3.95, Supernice

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Tray, £45, John Derian
at the Shop at Bluebird

Sorry to appear insistant, but
I must have my trinkets. This is the last
chance.

Cushion, £45, Barnaby
Barford & Andre Klausner
at Thorsten van Elten

Wooden letter,
£16, Supernice

It's Only Vanishing
Cream (1973)
by Ed Ruscha

It's ONLY
VANISHING
CREAM

Sonia Rykiel

Tile, £24,
Rob Ryan

Collage,
Willow

Mirror, £45,
Gavin Coultrip
at Thorsten van Elten

I WANNA ROCK AND ROLL



AND PARTY EVER

TALKING POINTS

Rumeur
(2000–2004) by
Annette Messager



ABC 3D
by Marion
Bataille (9.99,
Bloomsbury)



BAZ

DESIGN

The joy OF TEXT

Brooch, £33, Tatty
Devine for Ashish



'Pavement
poetry' by
Sebastian Faulks



Skirt, £185,
Laura Lees



This spring, artists and designers are playfully spelling out their messages across clothing, furniture and other cool creations. *BY EMMA LOVE*

Tile, £2
Rob Ryan



Tea towel, £7,
Emma Bridgewater

TOTAL
HAPPINESS
IS A CUP
of TEA &
A NEW
MAGAZINE
& A BAR of
C



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