The Conversation (2012)


Handsewn, unlike scarves, are not frequently objects of display. Cotton rather than silk, dull rather than shiny, secretive rather than flashy, they are made to be used and hidden away. This one carries one of Alice Maher’s decoratively nightmareish drawings, a quirky thought for a private pocket.

Thomas Martin

Model Lithographs Stone Print (2007)


Thomas Martin’s paper constructions, pop-ups and printed books, the line between toys and art. This one, however, is quite straightforward a DIY paper model lithography press, with working parts.

Older Opie

Lenticular Ruler/ Bookmarks (2013)

Two lenticular bookmarks with roller markings, one of walking figures (their legs and arms move) and one of towering gifts (fetes of hip shaking). Published by Alan Cristea Gallery, London. Available through Julian Opie Shop: http://www.julianopie.com/en/65 each or £60 for the pair.

Julian Opie's art has long walked the border between high art and lighthouses, owning a stake to both Patrick Caulfield and Paul Rand. His work is so suited to the mass market it would seem almost mean spirited not to pursue it. As he says “some ideas are best shielded by multiple objects. Making just one postage stamp or flip book would seem silly.”

Grayson Perry

British Museum Map Silk Scarf (2012)

100% silk scarf, hand rolled, 90 x 90 cm. Available through the British Museum: http://www. britishmuseumshop.org/uk/shopi.html

The scarf as map has a long tradition in the military as well as in fashion. Grayson Perry’s stylish take on the British Museum is both decoration and gimlet eyed; it shows the way to “chipped statues” and “the sublime,” but the social complexities of the public museum as private vendor are rendered by the Bevin head that announces your ticket to class mobility. Whether that ticket is the museum or the scarf is open to question. Perry has also done a scarf for the Tate (see: http://wwwCampo- orang.org.uk/artist-products/greyson-perry-scarf/)

Birketts Throsingly


100% cotton beach towel, 70 x 68 inches. Published by WOW (Works on Water). Available from the Art Production Fund: www.artproductionfund.org

Part of the new Art Production Fund, WOW has for several years invited major contemporary artists to create common household objects, most frequently towels. Jasper Johns has done one, as has Ed Ruscha. Throsingly’s towel takes up where his publicly produced T-shirts leave off, which is the job of a towel after all.

Robin Waart

Would you...? (2012)

Set of 45 postcards, 10.5 x 15 cm each, presented in a stickered black plastic envelope. Available through Johannesburg, Amsterdam: www.johohsystem.com

Robin Waart has a cinephile’s obsessive memory and a poet’s left touch. His book Picking Up Pictures was a mammoth tome in which each of the 500 pages reproduced a slide he had made of a moment in a subtitled movie in which one character asks another “what are you thinking?” (or words to that effect). This new postcard set is less cerebral and more romantic: subtitled movie moments in which one person finds the guts to ask another out. A perfect Valentine.

Valerie Waless

John Brown (2001) and Darwin (2013)


Cannongate Press in Brooklyn takes the popular potential seriously, selling its 18 x 14 inch relief prints for $8 a piece. They currently have work by more than a dozen artists, including Valerie Waless’s strapping portraits of 19th-century revolutionaries.