



ABC wall art, books and craft for all you arty types. **pg 29**



See the latest letter trends. **pg 19**

Welcome

My love of letters began in the 6th grade, when I used to spend hours laying out my assignments with colourful title pages and headings. The teacher commented to my mother, "if your daughter spent as much time on her studies, as she did on how they looked, she'd be an A+ student!" I can still vividly remember the satisfaction it gave me to make my school work look bright and inviting.

In this issue, we celebrate the alphabet and the written word. Making sure our kids can read and write are two of the most valuable lessons we'll ever teach them. We thought it only fitting to pay homage to this remarkable set of letters.

An extremely talented group of people has helped make this edition of LMNOP really shine. Many thanks to Frances England who wrote and preformed the 'Imnop' song for our website. Our team has been whistling along as we work these past few months. It's such a happy, cheerful tune - thank you Frances. We love it!

Artist Geninne D.Zlatkis created the beautiful Birds A to Z poster on page 9. When I stumbled across Geninne's work, I couldn't resist asking her to conceive an original piece of art for this special issue. I think you'll agree it's simply stunning, and how unique to see an alphabet of such pretty birds.

The beautiful images in 'Letters with Style' (page 19) was photographed in California last month by our regular contributor, Monika Elena. Make sure you look out for the letters l-m-n-o-p.

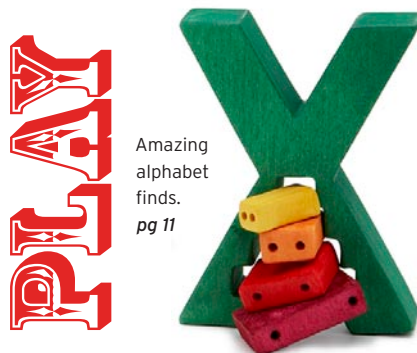
Discover some fun ways to teach your kids about vowels using hands-on construction toys and a little imagination. You'll also find some of the best a-b-c toys, games, books and art around.

Go have some fun!

Jenny Lacey
Editor-In-Chief



Pictures meet words. **pg 6**



Amazing alphabet finds. **pg 11**

Grégoire Ganter's Alphabet City. **pg 26**



l m n o p

LAUGH • MAKE • NURTURE • ORGANISE • PLAY



Marni & Amy
Photographed by Ian MacPherson

l m n o p . c o m . a u

ISSUE 7

LMNOP CONTRIBUTORS



GENINNE D.ZLATKIS

ARTIST

Your favourite letter of the alphabet?

The "G" of course! It's so curvy and fun to write & because I share the same initial as my dad.

Name a favourite childhood game.

Coloring books and paper dolls.

Were you a tree climber or a reader?

Tree climber, for many years.

A childhood activity you wish you could still do.

Talk and laugh for hours with my little sister every night before going to sleep.

How would your parents describe you as a child?

Creative, always making something with my hands.

Favourite childhood toy? And do you still have it?

Crayons and paints. Still have those but not the original ones, they never lasted too long.

Favourite book growing up?

Mouse Tales by Arnold Lobel, I highly recommend it.



JEAN POLSKY

ESTELLA, FOUNDER

Your favourite letter of the alphabet?

S. It's symmetric, round and friendly looking.

Name a favourite childhood game.

Dress up.

Were you a tree climber or a reader?

Neither. More of a sit-and-watcher.

A childhood activity you wish you could still do.

Make prank calls with my best friend.

How would your parents describe you as a child?

A clothes horse.

Favourite childhood toy? And do you still have it?

My four big brothers, and yes!

Favourite book growing up?

Anything by Roald Dahl or Flannery O'Connor.



FRANCES ENGLAND

MUSICIAN

Your favourite letter of the alphabet and why?

F because F is for FUN.

Name a favourite childhood game.

Walking on homemade stilts that my grandfather made for me.

Were you a tree climber or a reader?

Both. Actually, I used to love reading books in trees. Why don't I do that anymore? I need to get back to that...

A childhood activity you wish you could still do.

Lie around for hours without a care in the world.

How would your parents describe you as a child?

Shy, compassionate and empathetic.

Favorite childhood toy? And do you still have it?

A fantastic wooden cash register that my grandfather made for me. And yes, I still have it. My boys play with it now.

Favourite book growing up?

The Little Raccoon and The Thing in the Pool by Lilian Moore (this really should have been a classic).



ON THE COVER

Left: Marni wears Lace Puff Tee, **Big by Fiona Scanlan, \$44.95**, bigbyfiona.com Scarf, **Le Big Socks, \$49**, fussyfeet.com.au Skinny Leg Pant, **Mill & Mia, \$74.95**, millandmia.com Black boot, **Mod 8, \$280**, fussyfeet.com.au

Right: Amy wears Moons and Stars Tee, **\$49.95**, Frilly Tulle Skirt, **\$69.95**, Spot tights, **\$23.95**, all **Big by Fiona Scanlan**, bigbyfiona.com Grey patent boot, **Mod 8, \$240**, fussyfeet.com.au

A & Z ply wood letters, **\$20 each**, David Met Nicole, davidmetnicole.com

Photographed by Ian MacPherson

Styling by Sunitra Martinelli

Produced by Imnop productions

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A B C 1 2 3

kinderkaboodle.com.au



Crochet Letters,
I Golfini Della Nonna,
US\$130, info@golfini.com

ODDS AND ENDS



Photo: Ian MacPherson

T-test

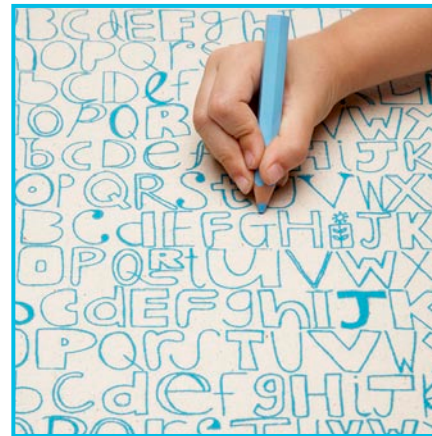
Take an eye-test in a stylish Optometrist t-shirt from Faubourg Saint Denis. This casual, French-designed label for boys and girls aged 2-8 is a creative collaboration between five good friends. They inject innovation, fun colours and comfort into every t-shirt.

Faubourg Saint Denis, US\$49,
faubourgsaintdenis.com

BOOKWORM BAG

Borrowing from the library is a fun, inexpensive way to experience books. A Miss Polly tote is the perfect carrier for your reading material and is available in yellow, blue and red.

Miss Polly Tote, Tiny Mammoth
kidostore.com, \$19.95



Alphabet-inspired craft calls for some fanciful fabric. Fabric designer, Lucie Summers screenprints her hand drawn 'Alphabetty' design on oatmeal cotton with water based inks. Each piece measures approximately 10 x 14 inches and would be perfect for any small craft projects that spring to mind. Fabrics from left: Raspberry Red, Teal Blue and Leaf Green.

Alphabetty, screenprinted fabric
US\$6.75 each, summersville.etsy.com



Photo: Ian MacPherson

old-school words

Add some nostalgia to the modern nursery with vinyl wall chart. The sweet illustrations and simple words are reminiscent of educational posters from the 70s. Chart measures 50 x 96cm.

Things Wall Chart, \$60, blinkdesigns.com

ODDS AND ENDS



Alphabetic order

When you're dining out, waiting for a food order to arrive can bore the kids. So why not keep them occupied by taking your own colouring-in placemat? This pad of A to Z animal landscapes can be used to colour at the dinner table, so you can relax while the kids are kept busy.
Placemat Colouring Pad, US\$20, bobsyouruncle.com

VINTAGE TEXT



Cursive handwriting charts make a pretty border or feature for a wall. These vintage charts from Three Potato Four are printed on heavy card stock and measure 20.75 x 6". Choose from a variety of letter combinations.

Cursive Handwriting Classroom Charts,
US\$20 each, threepotatofourshop.com



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Stockists welcome info@nutcase.com.au



SPIN GIRL SYSTEM
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Pictures meet words

Nurture children's love of learning with The Montessori approach. It encourages them to be independent with activities and materials they can use at their own pace.

The Montessori Reading Boards are an excellent way to explore the connection between spoken and written language. Children can start their reading practice with a parent or on their own by naming the pictures on these charming wooden cards. Once reading skills are established, they can then match them to the corresponding word card from the same set. This sleek wooden set includes 100 picture cards, 100 word cards and two stands.

Montessori Reading Boards, Nienhuis, US\$200, kidonyc.com





26¢ worth

Make learning the alphabet fun with tactile letters from MiChiMa. Each letter is immaculately hand made with felt, then stuffed and blanket-stitched closed. *The Alphabet Set* consists of 26 letters, from A to Z, each between 1.5 and 2 inches in height. Available in uppercase or lowercase, in an array of electric colours that will excite your littlies to learn.

Alphabet Set, MiChiMa, US\$30 for a set of 26, michima.etsy.com

'The Master' 1923 Gumball Machine, Norris Manufacturing, \$1,695 retroantiques.com.au

Meet Tony Clayton

FINBAR'S DAD

Finbar's development inspired this dad to make funny t-shirts for kids. First "hungry, very sleepy." Then "I'm small, but I know stuff." And later "far out brussel sprout"

PHOTOGRAPHED BY Ian MacPherson



Left: Tony hand screen prints all his t-shirts. Top right: A batch of Far Out Brussel Sprout t-shirts laid out for drying. Bottom right: Well Spotted t-shirts all ready to ship.

LMNOP: How were you inspired to start your business?

TC: I was making adult t-shirts for any brand that'd have me for years. But when our son was born, I wanted to make t-shirts for him that would somehow describe the idiosyncrasies of children but also express some of the parents' joy and expectation, and well, frustration.

LMNOP: What's your biggest seller?

TC: The perennial favourite has been 'far out brussel sprout' but lately 'the force is strong with this one' has rocketted to the top of the list.

LMNOP: What advice would you give to other dads trying to start a business?

TC: Have the love of a good woman! Don't get too caught up with a grand plan; it's good to be adaptable. Men can tend to overlook the details so it's good to remember a few basics ... like looking after the customer and paying the bills.

LMNOP: How do you juggle your business with fatherhood?

TC: Can anyone tell me how they do that? I just don't plan to work after 3pm then catch up after Finbar's bedtime.

LMNOP: What's your biggest challenge as a dad?

TC: When I'm with Finbar, I want to give him 100% but when you have your own business, it is always lurking there in the back of your mind somewhere. It's very hard to switch off and get close to that 100% target

LMNOP: What do you and Finbar like to do together?

TC: We've started playing the card game Uno and I don't have to let him win anymore - he's doing well on his own! Meeting with our regular park playmates after school, riding our bicycles and the occasional sneaky gelato treat at Bar Italia.

LMNOP: The best piece of advice you'll ever give your son.

TC: 1. Remember the force will be with you, always (quote from Star Wars).
2. Always be nice to your Mum. 3. Make your own luck.

Well Spotted, wellspotted.com.au



**I couldn't
live without**

Notebooks.



**What we're reading
at the moment**

With Finbar -
Vunce Upon A Time by
Jotto Seibold & Siobhan Vivian.
Myself -
The Uncommon Reader by
Alan Bennett.



**When I have 30
minutes to myself**

I love the ritual of making my own espresso at home then enjoying it while ticking things off my 'to do' list!

Birds of a feather

Artist Geninne D. Zlatkis has been fascinated with birds ever since she was a little girl. Her love for these exotic creatures is obvious and Geninne's ability to capture their fine details is truly remarkable. This original watercolour, *Birds from A to Z* has been especially created for the alphabet issue of LMNOP. A small number of limited edition, signed and numbered prints are available for purchase and are certain to be treasured by keen bird watchers. Just get in quick - these special pieces are sure to fly out the door!

Birds from A to Z, 12 x 16", by Geninne D. Zlatkis, US\$50, [geninne.etsy.com](https://www.geninne.etsy.com)





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DESIGN ACCENTS
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International trade fair for small, savvy, cutting-edge products

www.designtokyo.jp/en/

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TEL: +81-3-3349-8505 FAX: +81-3-3344-2411 E-mail: baby@reedexpo.co.jp

PLAY



ALPHABET BLOCK | Golfini Della Nonna, \$9.95 each, Kido Store, (02) 9314 7010

Toys, craft and stationery to tickle the imagination.



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Surprise a friend with a message in a bottle.

O-Check Design Graphics, \$14.95
mymessyroom.com.au



ON-THE-GO SCRIBBLERS

Lucie Summers' Alphabetty fabric covers these handy pocket book scribblers. Available in a 92-page sketchbook or a 70-page lined notebook.

Summersville, US\$14.95 each
summersville.etsy.com



PUZZLING LETTERS

What better way to get to know your letters by piecing them together? See what cheerful picture each one can make. Available in letters A to Z.

Fauna Trade, \$8.50 each, honeybeetoy.com.au



TELLING TALES

Making up your own stories is fun when you create them with this DIY story book. 96 stickers help tell the tale, while the cloth spine and 50 perforated pages keep your stories fresh.

eeBoo, \$24.95, mymessyroom.com.au



SANDY LETTERS

Montessori method, sandpaper letters are a fun way to introduce little ones to letters. Children can trace each letter shape with their fingers, in the style and direction that they are written. Set of 26 letters mounted on 3" wide pieces of birch plywood.

Polliwog Learning Products, US\$31.20 a set, polliwog77.etsy.com

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Deliver handmade messages with this felt and wool mailbox set. Stick Velcro backed pictures and messages to postcards or a shipping box, then post them in your mailbox.

2 Big Kids, \$64.95, My Messy Room
 (02) 9798 3233



PLAY



O SO LOVELY

Start teaching the alphabet as soon as your baby can grasp a teething circle. 3" in diameter, this O is made from solid Maple wood and has been sanded satin smooth.

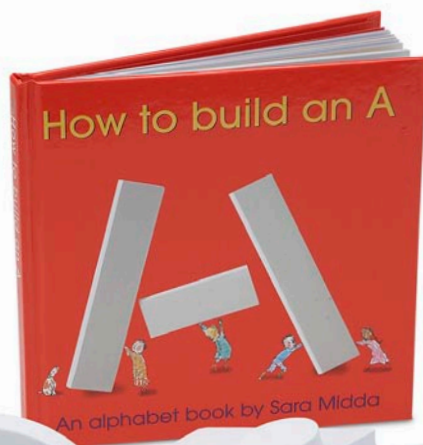
Little Sapling Toys, US\$8
littlesaplingtoys.etsy.com



BON VOYAGE

Make a statement at the airport with a Flight 001 Identifier Space Case. Features include a zip-around opening, an interior mesh zip pocket and a neat top handle. This case will hold all your mini traveller's essentials.

F1 Identifier Space Case, US\$52, flight001.com



BUILD ME AN A

Each page of Sara Midda's beautifully illustrated book, *How to Build An A*, shows you how to form a new letter with the 11 foam shapes provided. A mesh storage bag is included to make pack up easy.

How to Build An A, by Sara Midda, US\$17.95, kidonyc.com



A+ COLOUR

Marbled crayons have become all the rage. Custom order these colourful characters in any letter and colour combo you like.

Goose Hill Designs, US\$6.95 for a set of 6
goosehilldesigns.etsy.com



LEARNING IN A FLASH

A colorful set of oversized flash cards featuring the late Charley Harper's wildlife illustrations. This delightful set also makes two large floor puzzles and fits inside a box with a pull-out tray.

Charlie Harper, \$31.95
kidostore.com



FRIDGE ART

Give your fridge a face-lift with artist Grégoire Ganter's vibrant Alphabet Magnets.

Grégoire Ganter, US\$23, gregoireganter.com

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Text by JENNY LACEY

U is for unique

An exciting new collection of alphabet prints has just hit the scene. Graphic designer Christina Childress has recently released a unique range of bold and playful alphabet prints in a wide variety of delicious colors.

You won't find any letter clichés amongst this set. G is for glasses and R is for records are just two examples of Christina's playful imagination.

Like a letter, but would prefer a different word or colour? Christina will happily custom-tailor a print for you.

paperfingers.etsy.com



From Top: W is for Waffles. X is for Xylophone. Y is for Yarn. Z is for Zeppelin. Prints measure 11 x 8.5" and are printed with archival inks on acid-free Green Seal Certified Neenah Paper.

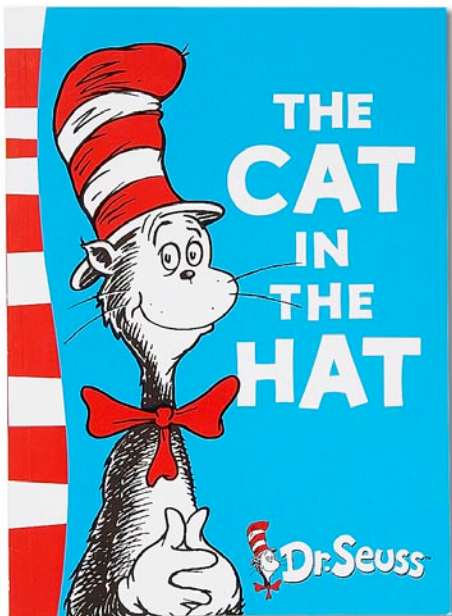
lmnop.com.au



The name game

Agreeing on a name for your newborn can lead to many debates. Dust off your Scrabble board and have some fun discovering a name you both like.

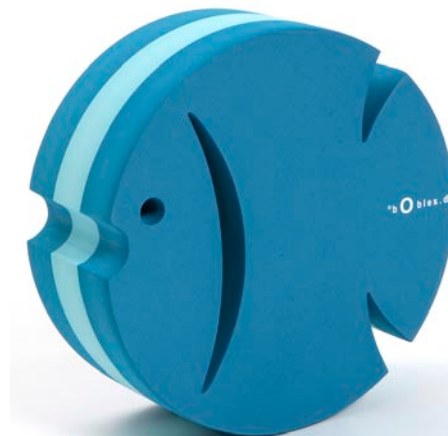
Classice Scrabble, Hasbro, \$54.95, monkeypuzzletoys.com.au



FUN-IN-A-CHAIR

A kid sized seated desk with a pull-out drawer, so you can hide mess.

Treasure Drawer Desk
Casa Kids, US\$199
sparkability.net



TUMBLING FURNITURE

Here's a fish who's ready to have some fun! Roll and tumble on firm, foam furniture that won't damage the house.

bObles, US\$49, sparkability.net

Text by KATE FENWICK



LAMP WITH DOTS

A stylish dot pattern will dress-up any room.

Red Spot lamp, Twink Lamp
US\$56, giggle.com

CLEAN CAT

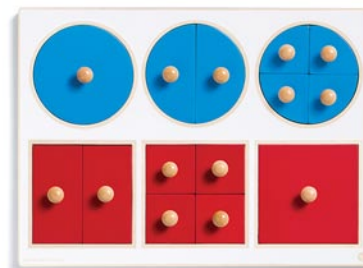
Dirt-repellant fabric makes this bean bag easy to spruce up after spills. It's bright cover is fully machine-washable.

Happy Cat Bean Bag, Vessel
US\$249, vessel.com



Storybook Room

Draw inspiration from a classic. Dr Seuss' *The Cat in the Hat* is full of simple bright colours, quirky shapes and unexpected combinations of the sensible and surreal, making it an ideal place to begin decorating your child's room.



TWO THINGS

Take a lesson in fractions and explore how 'two things' can come out of one box.

Exploring Fractions Puzzle, Kid O
US\$19, kidonyc.com

THE MAT

Run rings around your room with this handmade, Tibetan wool rug.

Blue Rink by Kim Parker, POA,
therugcompany.info



SLEEP IN

Snuggle under a dynamic, lightning bolt quilt cover.

Action Bed Set, Kideko
\$125, kideko.com

Create your own piece of art with Cocoon Couture's NEW wall art tiles.

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baby little girl little boy toys accessories



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Birthday type

Just about every parent has been there. You're out of birthday wrap and there's no time to buy any. But don't panic - we've got a quick-fix idea for wrapping presents that's as smart as it is chic.



Spruce up plain paper wrapping with these cardboard letter embellishments. Choose the first letter of the recipient's name, and thread a ribbon or coloured shoelace through the holes. Then tie around your paper package to brighten up birthday gifts in a jiffy.

Alphabet embellishments,
\$6.40 for 40, spotlight.com.au

polkalovers get snappy

STREET STYLE COMPETITION



POK

MONTHLY PRIZES
& GET FAMOUS ON

SNAP!



SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS
WWW.POLKAKIDS.COM.AU

Letters with style

Make a fashion statement this
season with l-m-n-o-p.

*Photographed by Monika Elena
Styled by Sunitra Martinelli*



LUCAS: Windbraker,
Minti, \$43, *minti*.
co.nz In Bloom tee,
Littlehorn, \$39.95,
(03) 9486 3768.
Mack cord jean,
Munster, \$79.95,
munsterkids.com.au



LORENZO: Boys Herringbone Jacket, \$192, 'Chien de Quartier t-shirt, \$50, and Cotton Twill pant with suspenders, \$120, all **Faubourg Saint Denis**, faubourgsaintdenis.com
SOPHIE: Girls Herringbone Jacket, \$192, Print Blouse, \$120, both **Faubourg Saint Denis**, faubourgsaintdenis.com Ella Skirt in grey, \$79, and Tangerine Tutu, \$82, both **Mamapapa**, Manon et Gwenaëlle, (02) 9114 6242.



MALEAH: Rosa dress in Paisley, Pink Chicken, \$US64.95,
for stockists contact pinkchicken.com Flocked Alphabet
hair pin. Letter N, Love, \$6.60, lovehate.com.au



JACKIE: Moulin Ruffled Halter,
Enchanted Enfant, \$US150,
enchantedenfant.com Frill pant
in cream, Mamapapa, \$52, Manon
et Gwenaëlle, (02) 9114 6242.



LILY: Hand-printed riding hood cape, **Wovenplay**, \$US148, moomah.com Black Striped Jada Sun Suit, **Wovenplay**, \$US136, sweetwilliamltd.com Hand-printed Vale Hood, and Hand-pressed flower lei, **Wovenplay**, both \$US100, available at wovenplay.com
Opposite page. Ribbon print cotton socks in turquoise, **Wovenplay**, \$US28, sweetwilliamltd.com

SHOW & TELL



Signs are a brilliant tool to teach kids their ABCs and to show them that letters come in all different colors, shapes and sizes.

janet + stu

Our daughter loves to shout out letters that she recognises in signs and advertising when we're on walks downtown and on long road trips to Nana's house. In our business, we often come across abandoned single letters which were once part of larger storefront signs and love getting them for our shop. They are a lovely and unique way to personalise and bring character to any space, particularly a child's bedroom or playroom.

From our love of signage, we collaborated with designer Jim Datz to create this Manhattan Print - inspired by all of the wonderful, classic urban street signage of Manhattan, but with a playful modern aesthetic. We have one of the prints hanging proudly in our daughter's room to remind her of where she was born and that she'll always be a city girl at heart.

Manhattan Poster by Jim Datz, US\$48
threepotatofourshop.com

little
pinwheel

for playful and free spirited little people



www.littlepinwheel.com.au



Now you see it

Say 'I Love You' at bedtime with French artist, Celine Saby's hand made, 100% cotton screen-printed lamp. Its soft, mellow glow illuminates these special words when the lamp is switched on.

I Love You lamp, Celine Saby, \$160, lolaetmoi.com.au



Now you don't

During the day, the lamp becomes a sleek, contemporary piece which would complement any child's decor.

Wooden village, \$18.95, mymessyroom.com.au



ALPHABET - APPLE, BROOKLYN BRIDG, CHRYSLER BUILDING ...



Photographer Grégoire Ganter produces a distinctive range of children's works, building collages from images gathered while riding or walking around his hometown of NYC.

The birth of Grégoire's first child Léa was the inspiration for blending colourful images with letters to produce original photographic collages.

Ganter created Lea's Alphabets in May 2003. Since then, he's been assembling individual pictures and letters to produce one-of-a-kind compositions. What results is a unique and sometimes surreal artwork.

New York City's energy and ever-changing architecture feature prominently in his collages. However, Ganter also uses images from his travels throughout the United States and Europe.

"I always have my camera with me, so I basically shoot all the time."

Ganter may capture a bold primary colour from a yellow NYC taxi cab, or the neon glow of downtown signage. With an extensive library of thousands of pictures and letters, he can create a custom name print, and can even including a photo of your child.

Lea's Alphabets series is available as postcards, single-letter or coloured themed collages and magnets. Visit gregoireganter.com to see more of his work.

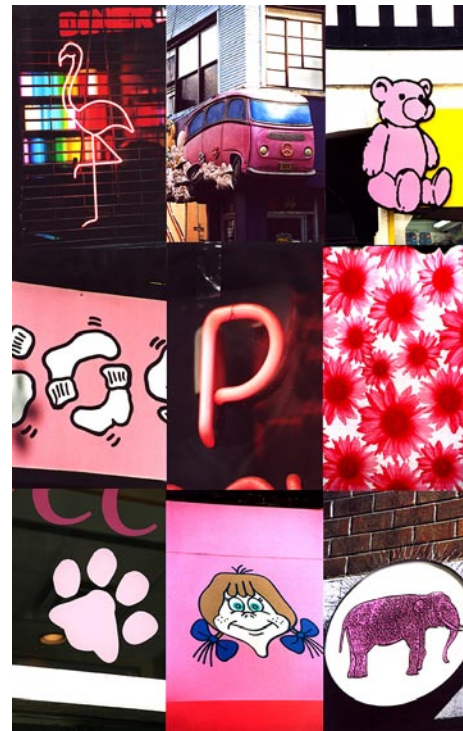
GREGOIRE GANTER'S ALPHABET CITY



A IS FOR ... SERIES



CUSTOM NAME COLLAGE



COLOURS SERIES



LETTER PRINTS

Seeing the city through Ganter's camera lens is a wonderful way for children to experience the world around them.

GREGOIRE GANTER'S ALPHABET CITY



Applebet

Canadian artist, Dale Nigel Goble loved drawing and painting from a young age. Today, his artwork and illustrations appear in private collections internationally, and in print and digital media. Dale's limited-edition wood cutout, Applebet, is simply too good to eat!

Applebet, shown in large. 36" x 36". Also available in red and white, *dng*, C\$500, dalenigeltgoble.com

NO.5:

Text by **SHANA ARDEN**
OF ENFANT TERRIBLE

AOI HUBER-KONO

The Big Fish

The library at Enfant Terrible is composed of books, literary games and magazines out of Asia and Europe.

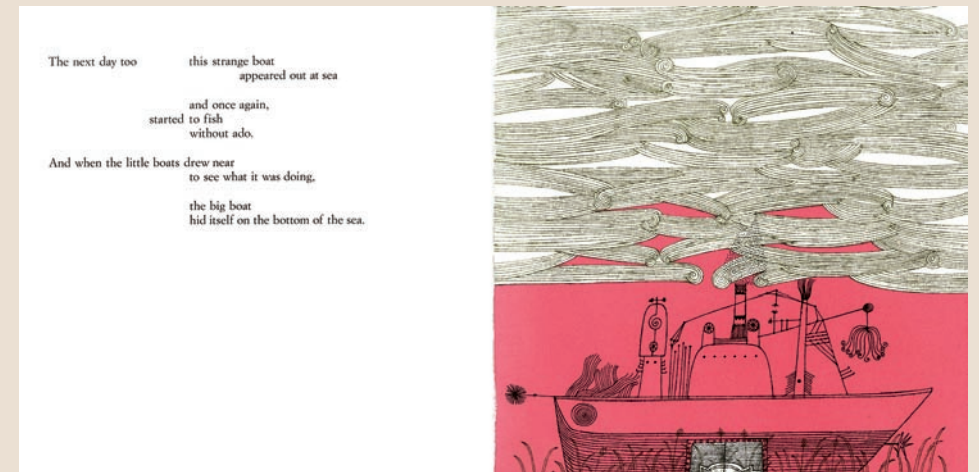
The Big Fish by Aoi Huber-Kono tells a story of a little island inhabited by fishermen, the sun and the waves. The little boats quietly fish the high seas, but one day a big boat comes to steal all the fishes of the fishermen. The poor fishermen are desperate, until a frightening storm will abandon a big, big fish on the beach: a poignant message of the role of nature in our lives.

To have my daughter on my lap and a book on hers is a moment held close: books and the written word extend to she and I beyond the confines of the bookcover and to grow a beautiful library for her nursery is a delight.

***The Big Fish* by Aoi Huber-Kono,**
C\$24, enfantterribleshop.com



© Aoi Huber-Kono. Courtesy Corraini Edizioni

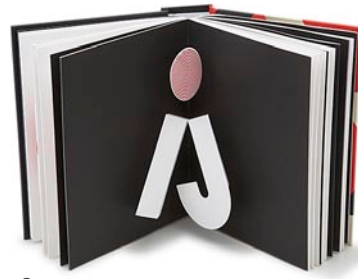




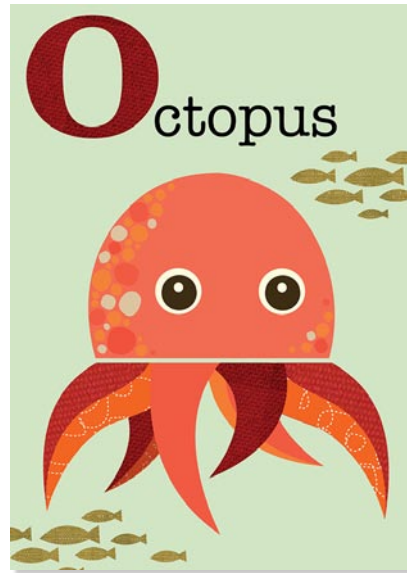
A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.

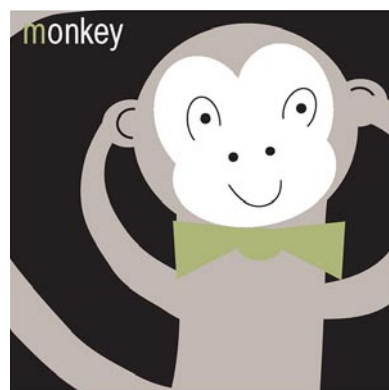
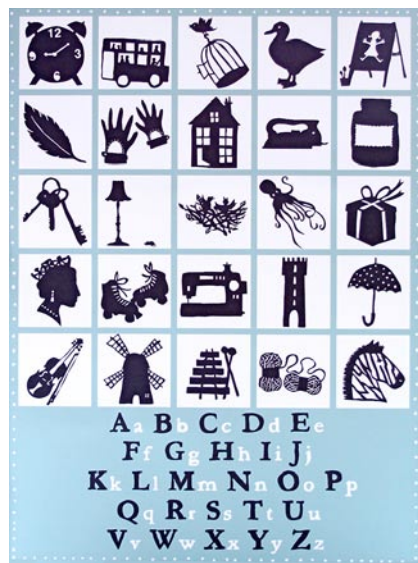


H.

for the ARTY TYPE

Take a look at these bright contenders for wall art, reading, craft and an educational start to learning your ABCs.

A. Animal Alphabet Poster, **The English Muffin Shop**, US\$28, englishmuffinshop.etsy.com B. Custom Name Poster, **Creative Neesh**, US\$60, creativeneesh.etsy.com C. ABC3D, by **Marion Bataille**, US\$13.57, amazon.com
D. Letter O (Octopus), **Jenn Ski**, US\$14, jennski.etsy.com E. Technicolour Alphabet, **Imeus Design**, \$115, laffichemoderne.com F. Alphabet Cards, **Ida Pearl**, US\$44, idapearle.com G. Animal A-Z Alphabet, **Bold & Noble**, US\$49, boldandnoble.etsy.com H. I Love You stamp set, **O-Check Design Graphics**, \$39.95, MyMessyRoom.com, (02) 9798 3233.



L.



K.

J.



M.

I. Alphabet Pipeline Print, **ModernPOP**, US\$25, modernpop.etsy.com J. Alphabet 'Where's M?' Print, **Famille Summerbelle**, US\$34, famillesummerbelle.com K. Scrabble Cufflinks, by **Kylie Robertson**, \$45 a pair, incube8r.com L. ABCme Alpha Poster (letter M shown only), **Tsk Tsk**, \$35, tsktsk.bigcartel.com M. The Alphabet Freize, **Miriam Bereson**, \$25, miriambereson.com



Itch
www.itchdesign.com.au

WORD from New York

Text by JEAN POLSKY

XXXXXX. The power of the written word is pretty amazing, and ironically, it has never been clearer to me than when my six year-old daughter, Stella, started to write. It's not her writing (or spelling) skills that made an impression on me. Both are still quite basic; she "sound-spells" most things, leaves out most of the vowels and instead focuses on the consonants. But she is still able to get her point across most of the time and you can tell she cherishes her new skill.

For Stella, being able to put her thoughts down on paper makes them real. In her mind, the note is concrete, and therefore so are her feelings. She loves to dash off quick notes when she's mad at us and tape them to her chest: "Stella is

mad. Pls dnt tlk to me." Or, "Der mommy XXXXX." Conversely, when we've been out for date night and she stays home with her babysitter, we know we'll have a sweet love note waiting for us on our pillow, long after she's been tucked into bed: "Der mommy and daddy. You r the bst. I mss you. XXOO Stella"

I've collected many of her letters, loving the simplicity and sincerity of them, knowing there will be a time in the not-so-distant future when things will not be so simple or so sincere. Stella's notes mark a specific time in her life, a period of honest self-expression and trust. She knows she can speak from her heart and that we will listen. And really, what is more powerful than that?

Photo: Sabra Krock



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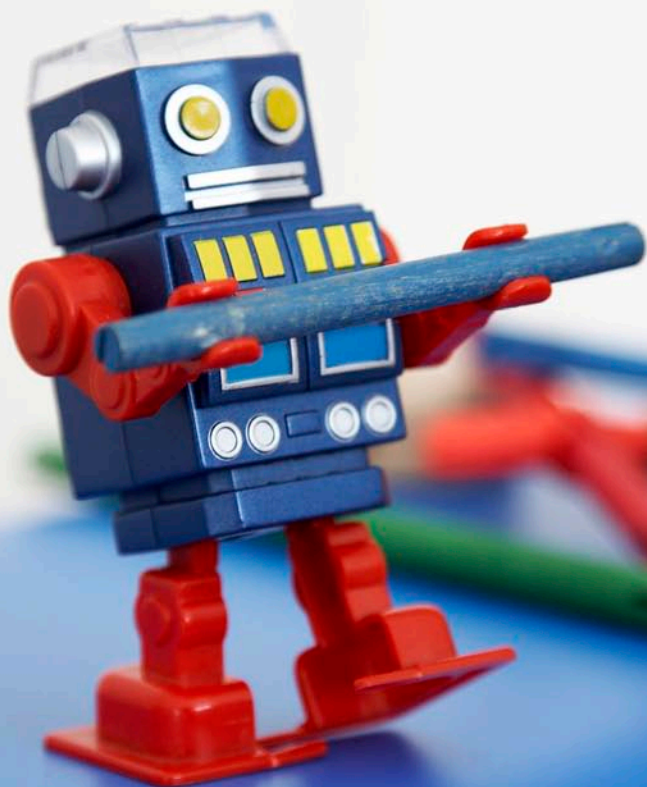
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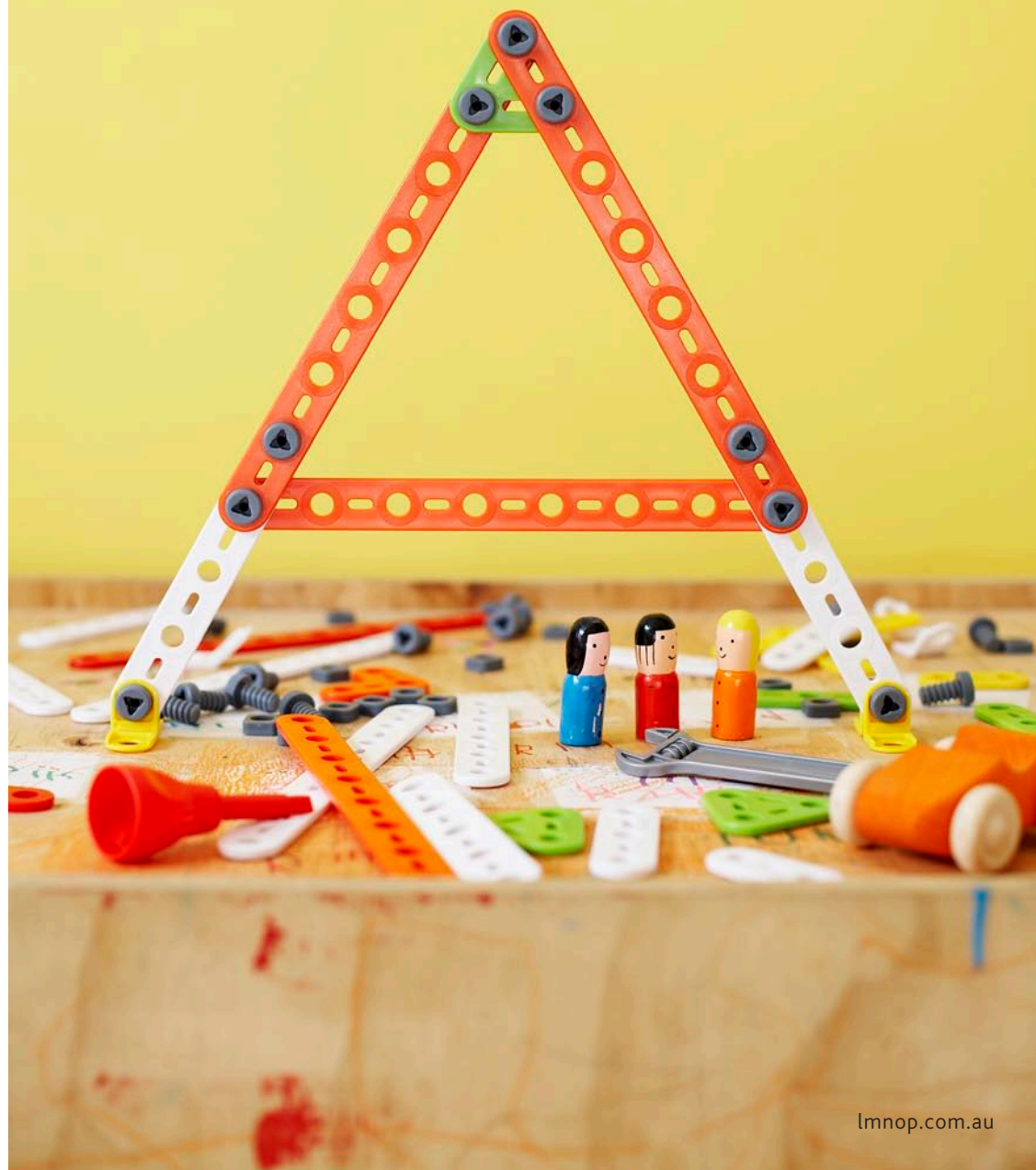
cOwEL struction

PHOTOGRAPHED BY *Ian MacPherson*
STYLING BY *Jenny Lacey*
PRODUCED BY *Imnop productions*



You don't have to be in a classroom to learn grammar.
Here's how to make learning child's play at home.

Letter A: Meccano 100 piece construction set. Meccano, \$36.50, Hopscotch, (02) 9960 5733.
People & orange wooden car, stylist's own.





Letter E: The Classic TinkerToy Construction 102 piece set. Playskool, US\$35.99, backtobasicstoys.com
Wind Up Robot pencil sharpener. \$9.95, cradlerock.com.au Shortstop Child's Doubleseater, shown in Atlantic Blue. In Your Room, \$225, inyourroom.com.au



Letter I: Tree Blocks 22 piece set. Tree Blocks, \$62, and Wooden Container Tipper Truck. Fagus, \$185, both honeybeetoys.com.au Crane. Playmobil, \$199, kidstuff.com.au



Letter O: Hot Wheels Set, **Mattel**, stylist's own. Door Stopper Mouse. Hess-Spielzeug, \$5.95, littlestyles.com.au Action bed set. Kideko, \$125, kideko.com



Letter U: Building Block Set, stylist's own. Wooden Indian Chief, \$46.50, and Wooden Canoe, \$33.80, **Ostheimer**, both honeybeetoys.com.au All other items, stylist's own.

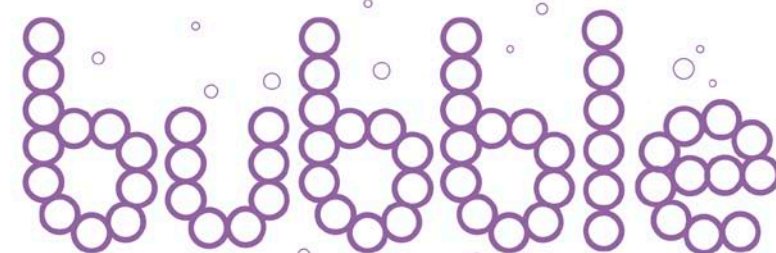
Photographed by HALLIE BURTON

BEST OF BUBBLE NY 8-10 MARCH, 09

LMNOP partnered with Bubble New York to host it's 7th edition of The Kids Trade Show at Terminal Stores in Chelsea, over 3 exciting days in March.

Attendees from all over the globe visited this trade only event, which showcased a mix of up-and-coming brands, Smiling Planet, Whitten Grey, and Half Dot Brooklyn, along with well established labels such as Munster, Atsuya et Akiko, Pink Chicken and Simple Kids.

Go to the lmnop.com.au/blog/ where we showcased the best of what was on show at Bubble for Fall/Winter 09.



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Go to the official LMNOP blog to see more book reviews, craft ideas, the latest info on things to see and do. PLUS, extra ideas on how to have fun with your kids.

Everything we cover in our magazine – just more regularly.



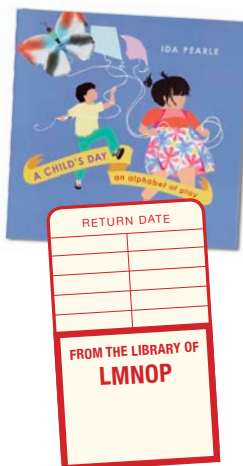
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BABY & KIDS WORLD 2009 IN TOKYO



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andmetoo.com.au



chookleaf.com.au



alannahrose.com.au

Sydney July 2-4

Teahouse at Royal Randwick, Alison Rd, Randwick

Melbourne August 6-8

Malvern Town Hall, Cnr Glenferrie Rd & High St, Malvern

magnoliasquare.com.au

Visit our website for more details including trading times for each event

minor details

on the ABCs *by Jennifer Ward*

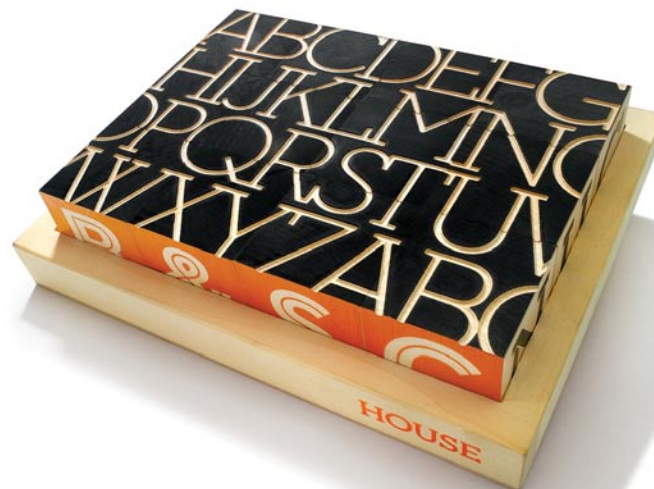


When I think about how little eyes first see the world, I wonder how they retain all that information. How do they build their sense of memory; learn to differentiate a pick-up truck from a dump truck?

The world presents itself to our children and sets many a stage for knowledge to be absorbed. Then all we have to do, as parents, is fill in the gaps.

To help stimulate those little minds, I tend to gravitate towards well-considered and well-designed toys, tools and books.

House Industries are known throughout the world as a prolific type foundry. Their typography amalgamates cultural, musical and graphic elements, making them the masters of all things typographical. If you've been searching for an amazing ABC block set, then look no further. House Industries's blocks are some of the best on offer.



NEUTRAFACE SLAB BLOCKS

One of House Industries latest creations is the 12-piece Neutraface Slab Blocks set. Each block has a debossed Neutraface Slab pattern and is made out of replenishable Michigan-grown, kiln-dried basswood. The Neutraface Slab alphabet will appeal to impressionable toddlers.

US\$35, houseind.com

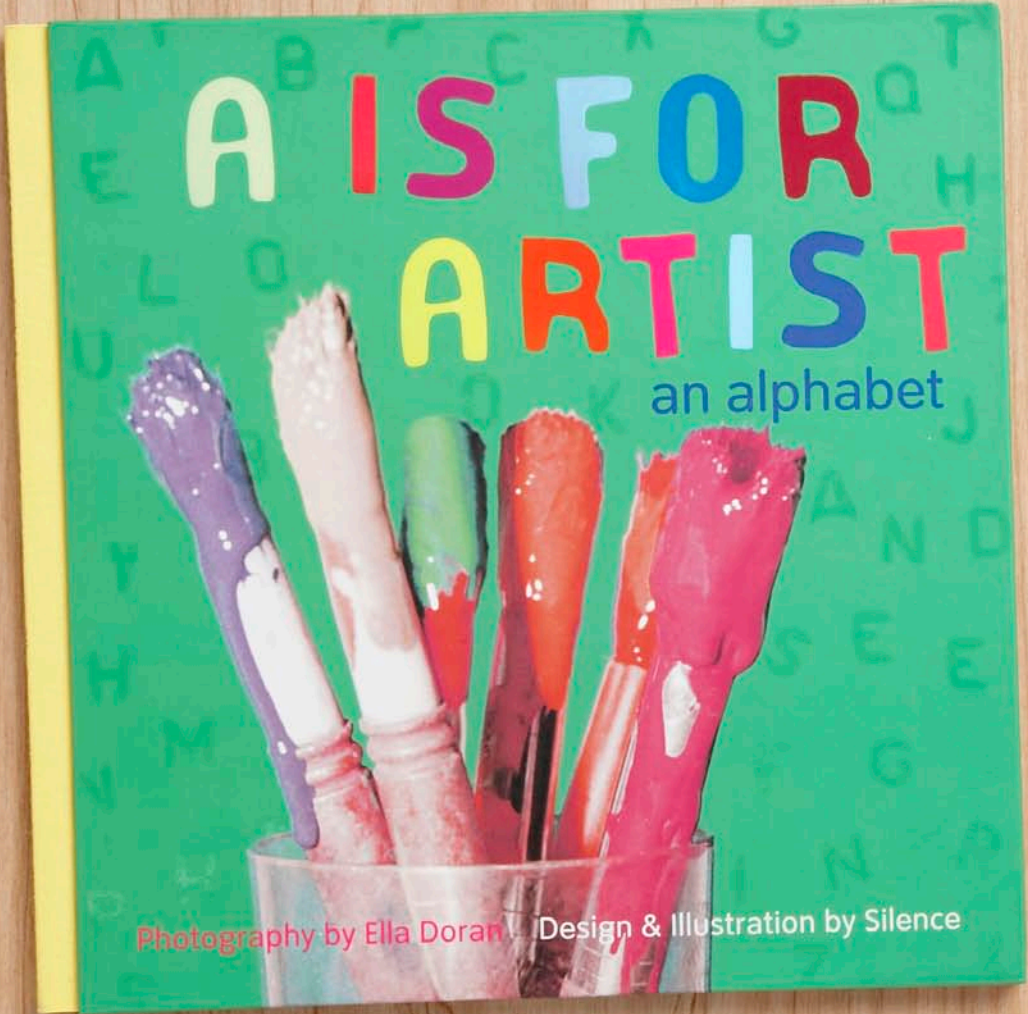


ALEXANDER GIRARD ALPHABET BLOCKS

House Industries teamed up with the estate of Alexander Girard to create this 28-piece alphabet set for the San Francisco MoMA's Girard exhibit in 2006. The blocks feature the renowned, mid-century artists' font collection and a Girard-inspired fun, factory puzzle. It's an amazing colourful collection of goodness.

US\$120, girard.houseind.com

To read more Minor Details, visit Jennifer's blog minordetails.typepad.com



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FROM THE LIBRARY OF

LMNOP

A IS FOR ARTIST

by Ella Doran,
Zoe Miller & David Goodman

US\$14.96

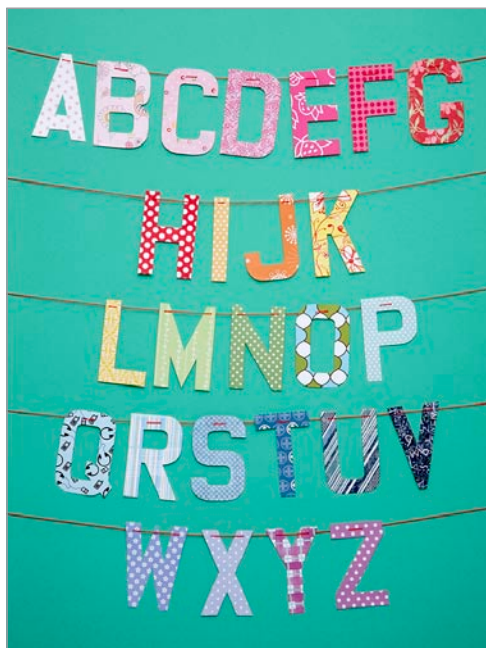
amazon.com

Specially commissioned by the Tate Gallery in London, *A is for Artist* creates an entire world around the alphabet taking you from a jigsaw jungle to meeting a recycled robot. The themed pages showcase each letter and words with vibrant photography, illustrations, graphic design and textual aspects to the pages.

If you want to teach your child the alphabet in a way that will be both engaging and visually stimulating, this well-produced number is the answer. From the exposed fabric spine to the tactile pages, this book will remain one to treasure for years to come.

Created by Zoe Miller and David Goodman, along with talented photographer Ella Doran, it's ideal for 3 to 6 year olds taking their first steps into language, providing infinite opportunities to dive into the pages to touch, play and explore.

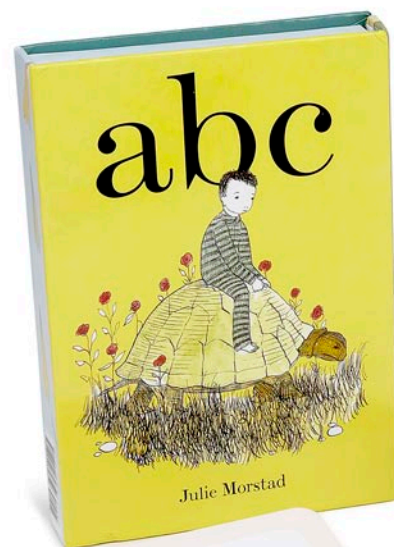
LEFTOVERS



A to Z garland

Paperklip make decorative alphabet garlands from some of the prettiest new and vintage papers available. Letters are hand-cut and strung together with a 6-metre length of soft stranded cotton. These delightful garlands can be hung from just about anywhere or for any special occasion.

A to Z Paper Garland, \$78,
Paperklip, paperklip.com.au



an artist's abc

Acclaimed illustrator, Julie Morstad brings us a delightful collection of abc drawings. This set of oversized flash cards features intriguing characters like a bear who loves to jig and a yarn-tangled pair of twins. Each card's charming picture is a story in itself.

abc, Julie Morstad, US\$10.85, amazon.com



PRIVATE STASH

Mums have to carry a range of tricks in their handbags. This private zip pouch is ideal for stashing away all your goodies, from lip balm to colouring pencils.

Private Property purse, \$25
blinkdesigns.com.au



Photo: Ian MacPherson

Simply put

Simplesong design is a letterpress and design studio located outside of Washington D.C. Self-taught designer, Suann Song reflects her simple and modern aesthetic in all of her stationery goods. Suann offers custom letterpress design for special occasions, and everyday use. A ready-made line (shown right) is also available for purchase in her Etsy shop.

Left to right: i heart lists letterpress sheets, **US\$6.50, set of 12.** Simple alphabet print, **US\$10.** Simple birthday postcard, **US\$4.50.** Hello sketch note cards, **US\$9, set of 4.**

Simplesong Design, simplesongdesigns.etsy.com

Photo: Ian MacPherson

