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## Zines

Cui Su www.zineswap.com twitter.com/zineswap

The zine is a testament that print still matters, not as a fetishized form, but as a wonderful medium between people and the stuff they put in print. Zinesters make them because they are passionate about the content. No subject matter is too niche. Whether they are zines about feminism, punk, design, music, fashion or football, free and playful self-expression is the only rule. There is no such thing as a design crime. Cheaply made, self-published and circulated in small numbers, many zines defy the conventions of mainstream magazines. Early 70s punk zines embraced typos, misprints, messy collages and clashing fonts because they reflect the nature of punk music: immediate, incoherent and chaotic. This exhibition, Zines, is a collection of publications produced by current students of Graphic Arts at Winchester School of Art. The show features a diverse range of zines which reflect \*\*\*



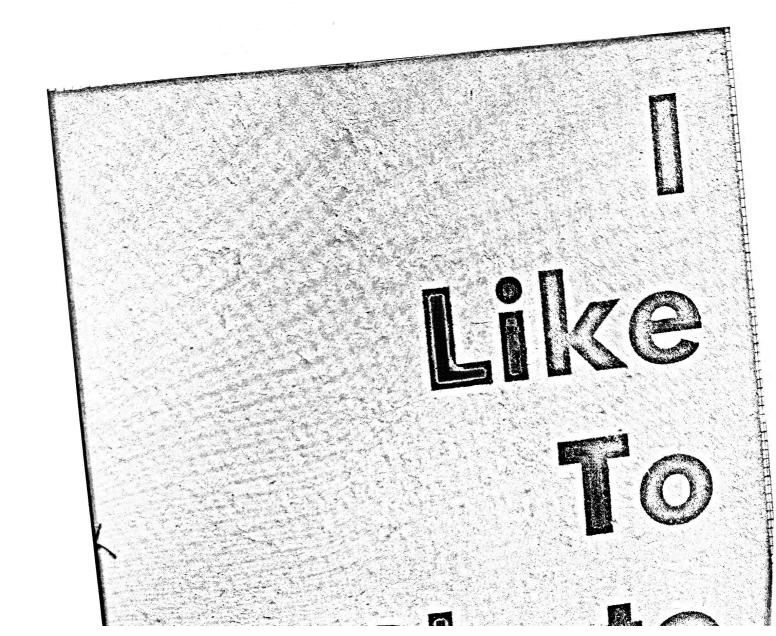
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student's personal interests. Some of them are the result of a class-room brief delivered in collaboration with Alex Zamora of Feverzine, in which students respond to a series of words: 'motion', 'debris', 'reflection', 'type'. The fun and ad-hoc nature of production creates a rich body of work.

Zines matter not only because they are evidence of the creative ingenuity of their makers, but also because they lend, as Rob Peart, founder of Zineswap, once said, "a sense of permanence" that zinesters of this precarious Internet Age so crave. Every zine, as Stephen Duncombe (1997) observes, "is a community institution in itself, as each draws links between itself and others...zines are not only the voice of an individual publisher, but a conduit for others' expression as well". Certainly beyond having something 'to hold in your hand', as zine producers often say, each zine is a solid connection with their audiences. After painstaking work making a zine by hand, ultimately producers want to be read; hence the distribution, sharing and swapping of zines have become just as important as the zines themselves. Undoubtedly online social networking plays an important part of this process, but the desire for creating 'virtual' communities existed long before the invention of the Internet. The permanence achieved via zine-making and swapping – self-publication – overcomes not just the lack of tangibility, but also the lack of social involvement and participation in professional design practice.

The zine format is not simply a reactionary response to the digital; in fact, self-initiated projects are thriving because of rather than despite web technologies. Some of our 3rd year graphic arts students, Grant Killoran, Victoria Iles, Kat Mitchell, Neil Laws, Josh Fletcher and Chantal Mayhew – whose zine, Black & White, is in this exhibition

- have set up Sauce Collective and shown work both on and offline at the Brighton Zine Fest, the London Zine Symposium and the monthly art markets in Winchester. Theorizations of why print matters – and in particular of its "form vs content" aspect – need to pay closer attention, both to the agency of exchange, as performed by the "zine – swap" in the shaping and changing the hallowed status of the printed text and the intelligibility of print "forms". The temporary and ever-changing zine-ic prints offers a permanence that is not just about having a tactile and physical form; it is also about the relationships between texts, authors and readers – multiple actors of complex communities, i.e. zine scenes that thwart simple dichotomies of print vs internet, physical vs. virtual.

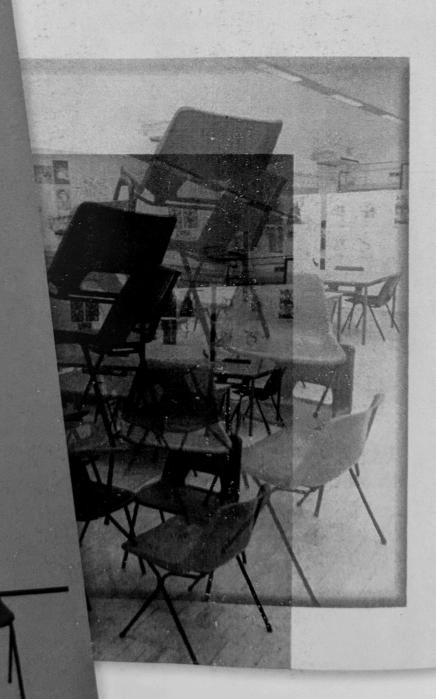


Valaria Aguilera

From 1963 to the present day over 14 million chairs have been sold.

84

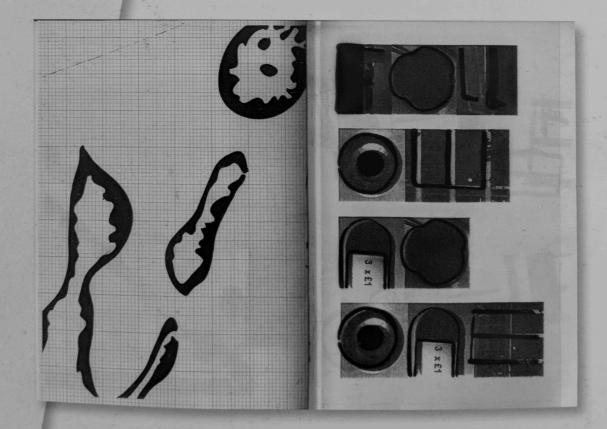
Please take a seat!





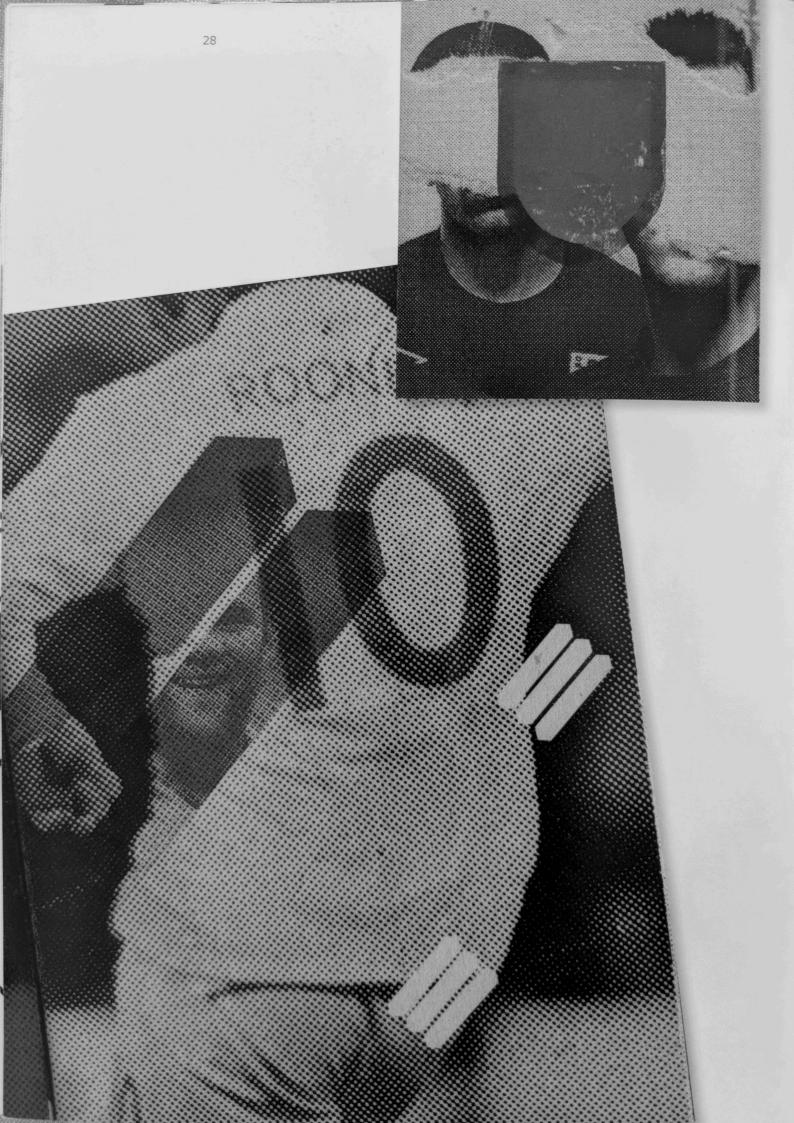


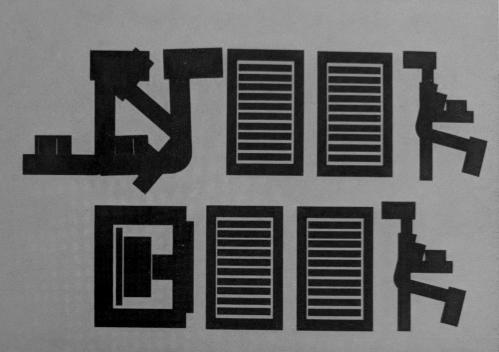


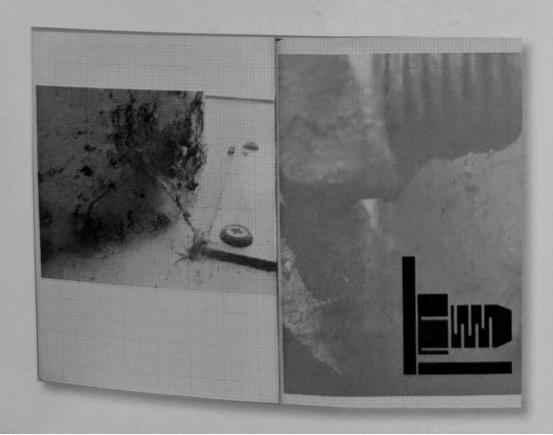


This page Zoe Mirza

Opposite Gabriela Matuszyk







This page Sarah Benson

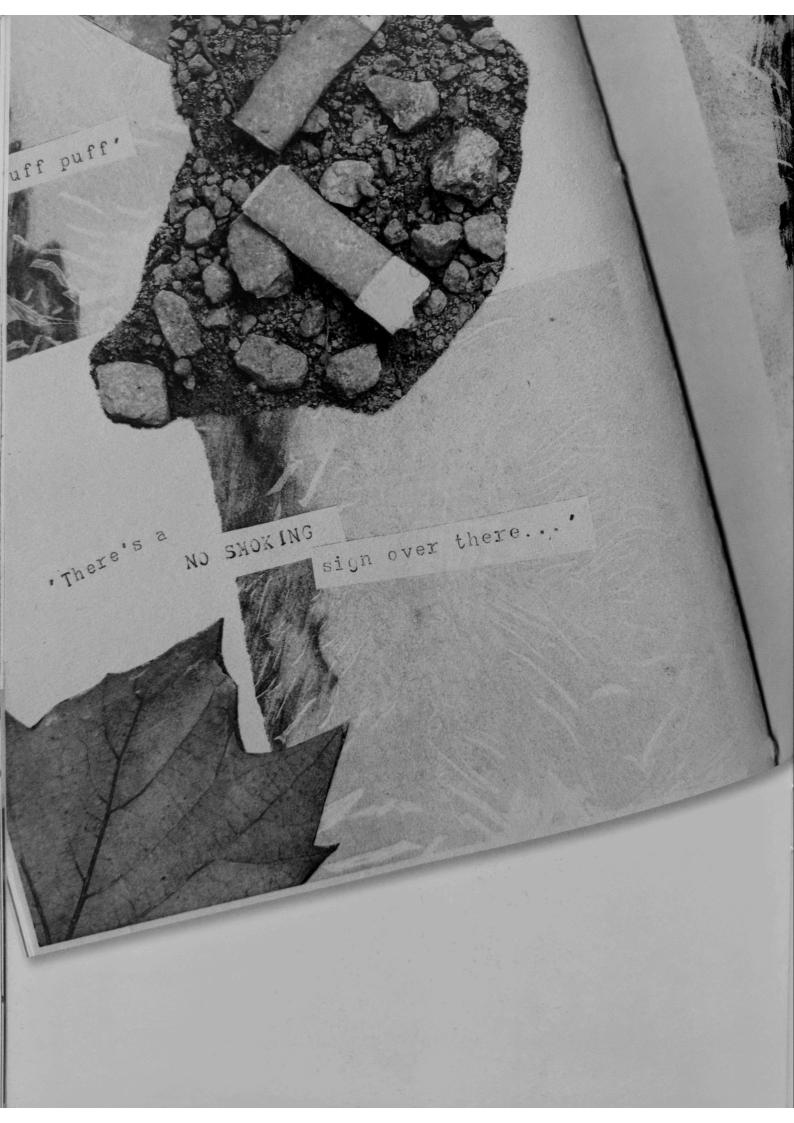
Opposite Josh Fletcher













## FORTYNINE

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