

ZINE-MAKER

A ZINE ABOUT ZINING

BY

MEG-JOHN BARKER

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INTRODUCTION

THIS ZINE IS A BRIEF INTRODUCTION
TO ZINES AND ZINE-MAKING

IT'S DESIGNED SO THAT YOU COULD SPEND ABOUT HALF A DAY WITH IT - ALONE OR IN A GROUP - AND, BY THE END OF THAT TIME YOU WOULD HAVE:

- LEARNT A BIT ABOUT WHAT ZINES ARE AND WHERE THEY COME FROM (AS WELL AS WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE)
- EXPLORED WHETHER ZINE-MAKING MIGHT BE FOR YOU AND, IF SO, HOW YOU'D LIKE TO DO IT / WHAT KIND OF ZINES
- LOOSENED UP YOUR WRITING AND PICTURE-MAKING CAPACITIES
- MADE THREE ZINES / ZINE PLANS
 - ★ A ONE-PAGE PER-ZINE
 - ★ A PAGE FOR A COLLABORATIVE ZINE
 - ★ A PLAN FOR A LONGER ZINE ON A THEME IMPORTANT TO YOU



WHAT ZINES?

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A ZINE (PRONOUNCED 'ZEEN', SHORT FOR 'FANZINE'/'MAGAZINE') IS ...

'A SMALL CIRCULATION, SELF-PUBLISHED WORK OF ORIGINAL AND/OR APPROPRIATED TEXTS AND IMAGES' (WIKIPEDIA)

'A NONCOMMERCIAL, NON-PROFESSIONAL, SMALL CIRCULATION MAGAZINE WHICH THE CREATOR/S PRODUCE, PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE THEMSELVES' (STEPHEN DUNCOMBE - NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND)

KEY FEATURES

(MAY NOT ALL BE PRESENT)

SCRUFFY,
NON-PROFESSIONAL
UNSKILLED
UNPOLISHED

COMES FROM/
BUILDS
COMMUNITY

CHEAP/
NON-PROFIT/
EXCHANGED

BRICOLAGE
OF MADE/
FOUND
TEXTS/IMAGES

DIY

MEANT TO
BE SHARED/
PASSED ON

QUICK

BRIEF
(10-40
PAGES)

WEIRD
CHAOTIC

RADICAL/
COUNTER-
CULTURAL

PERSONAL
CONNECTION
BETWEEN
CREATOR/
READER

SELF-PUBLISHED

WHERE ZINES?

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NO SINGLE ORIGIN STORY

BLACK LITERARY
MAGAZINES OF THE
HARLEM RENAISSANCE

1700S POLITICAL
PAMPHLETS
EG. THOMAS PAINE - COMMON SENSE

VICTORIAN
WOMEN'S
SCRAPBOOKS

LITTLE MAGAZINE
MOVEMENT
IN INDIA

1930s
SCI-FI
FANDOMS

1960s
SCI-FI FANZINES
EG. STAR TREK SLASH

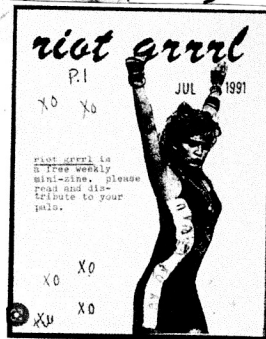
OTHER
GENRE
FANDOMS

DISGRUNTED
SELF-PUBLISHERS

1970s
PUNK

PRINTED
POLITICAL
DISSENT

1990s
RIOTGRRRL
&
QUEER CORE



MORPHING &
RESURGING
WITH DIGITAL &
DIY CULTURES

SEE: ZINEJAM.COM/BLOG-1/ZINES-101 - LEA COOPER

WHY ZINES?

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POLITICAL/PERSONAL REASONS

DOMINANT CULTURE

vs.

ZINES

CORPORATE MEDIA	INDEPENDENT & LOCALISED
CELEBRITY OBSESSED	CELEBRATES EVERYDAY FOLK (US!)
REWARDS 'SUCCESS'	PRODUCED BY DOWNWARDLY MOBILE LOSERS
ATOMIZED INDIVIDUALS	FORGE & EMBODY INTERCONNECTED NETWORKS/COMMUNITIES
WORK FOR OTHERS' PROFIT	REDEFINE WORK VALUE CREATIVE LABOUR
NORMATIVE - SILENCES THE MARGINS	LEAVE TANGIBLE TRACES OF MARGINAL COMMUNITIES
'EXPERTS' MATTER	LIVED EXPERIENCE MATTERS
VALUES 'HIGH' CULTURE	VALUES 'LOW' CULTURE
GLOSSY CONSUMERISM	SHABBY DIY

SEE - NOTES FROM UNDERGROUND - STEPHEN DUNCOMBE

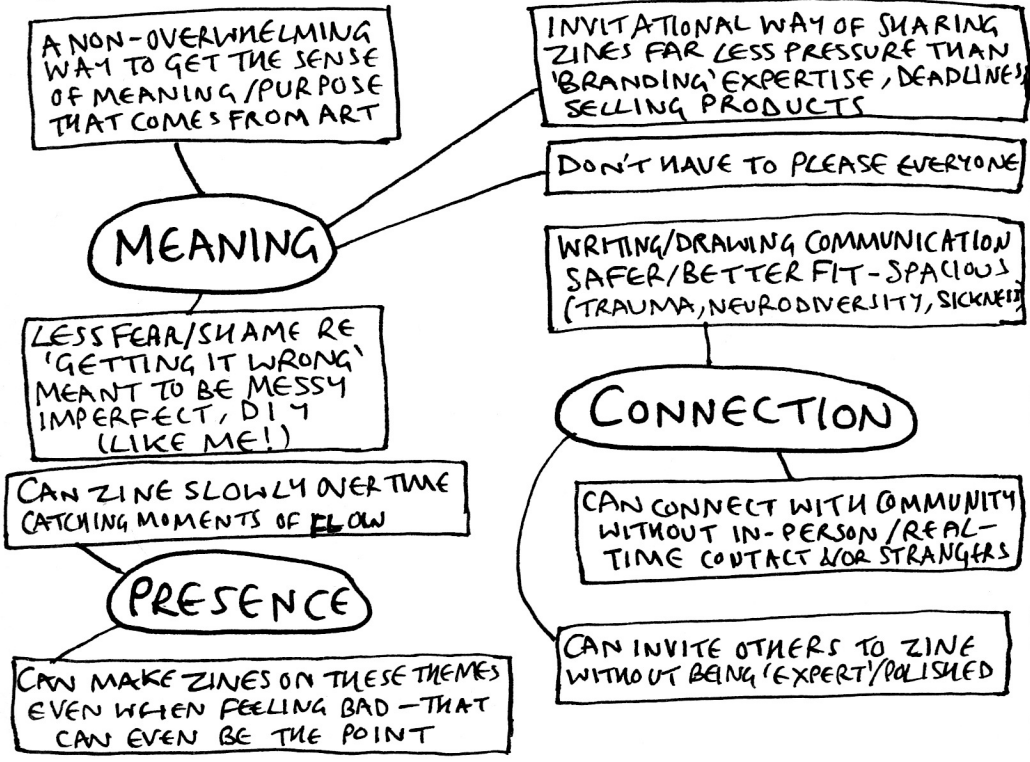
MAD CRIP QUEER ZINES

PERSONAL/POLITICAL REASONS

AS WELL AS OFTEN EMERGING FROM, & HELPING CONNECT, MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES, ZINES CAN BE A PARTICULARLY GOOD FIT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE, MAD FOLK AND OTHER MARGINALISED GROUPS (TO MAKE & TO READ)

LEA COOPER - 'AN ALTERNATIVE HISTORY OF ZINES CAN BE FOUND IN THE CULTURAL OR CREATIVE PRODUCTS OF BED/SICK ROOMS'

SOME OF MY MAD/CRIP/QUEER REASONS



THE POLYPHONY.ORG/TAG/IN-THE-ZINE-HOUSE
 SEE- MADZINES.ORG QUEERZINELIBRARY.COM
 REWRITING-THE-RULES.COM/SELF/ALL-ABOUT-ZINES

WHO ZINES?

⑦

STEPHEN DUNCOMBE - 'FREAKS, GEEKS, NERDS, AND LOSERS... MISFITS, ODDBALLS... BOHEMIANS'

HOLLY CASIO - PEOPLE 'MOTIVATED BY SELF-EXPRESSION & PASSION, NOT PROFIT' WANTING TO 'SHARE YOUR IDEAS & CREATE SOMETHING VERY QUICK & VERY CHEAP'

IS IT FOR YOU?

- IS WRITING/PICS A MEDIUM THAT'S ACCESSIBLE & ENJOYABLE FOR YOU? (IF NOT, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER MEDIUMS E.G. VIDS, PODCASTS, PERFORMANCE, AUDIO ZINES LIKE THOSE BY BILLIE ELLIOT SOUND)
- DO YOU LIKE MAKING STUFF - ALONE, WITH A FRIEND OR IN A SMALL GROUP?
- HAVE YOU GOT THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ZINE ABOUT?
- ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT CONNECTING WITH OTHER (LIKEMINDED) PEOPLE IN THIS WAY?
- DOES THE SHABBY DIY FORMAT APPEAL TO YOU? (OR YOU COULD MAKE A MORE POLISHED VERSION)
- DO YOU HAVE SPACE/TIME TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR LOW/NO PROFIT? (OR YOU COULD SELL THEM FOR SOME INCOME, SET UP A PATREON, ETC. FOR SOME INCOME)

SEE - 'THIS IS FAKE DM - HOLLY CASIO

LOVE ZINES

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STEPHEN DUNCOMBE : THE DEFINING
FEATURE OF ZINES IS THAT THEY ARE :

AMATEUR

THE ROOTS OF AMATEURISM ARE NOT
PEJORATIVE (AMATEUR VS. PROFESSIONAL)

AMATOR = LATIN FOR LOVER

MIKE GUNDERLOY (FOUNDER OF FACTSHEET)
(FIVE ZINE REVIEW)

ZINES ARE DONE FOR LOVE

- ☆ LOVE OF EXPRESSION
- ☆ LOVE OF SHARING
- ☆ LOVE OF COMMUNICATION
- ☆ LOVE AND RAGE
(IN A CULTURE THAT DOESN'T REWARD ACTS OF LOVE)

TYPES OF ZINE

CAN BE ANYTHING - ANY SIZE, SHAPE, QUALITY, FORMAT - ANY BALANCE OF WORDS/IMAGES - IT CAN FOLD OUT INTO A POSTER, INCLUDE POCKETS OR INSERTS, INCLUDE SCRAPBOOK ELEMENTS...
USUALLY - A BOOKLET/PAMPHLET FORMAT

E.G.

FANZINES
DISCUSS A CULTURAL GENRE, OFTEN WITH STORIES, ART, POEMS, REVIEWS, ETC.

POLITICAL ZINES
FROM A POLITICAL GROUP OR IDENTITY
EG. ANARCHIST, FEMINIST, QUEER, ECO

SEX ZINES

COMIX

PERZINES
DOCUMENT EVERYDAY LIFE EG. DIARY FORMAT, ROAD TRIP, DAY-TO-DAY WORK LIFE, MENTAL HEALTH

MANIFESTOS

LITERARY ZINES

COMMUNITY ZINES

COOKING ZINES

COLLAB ZINES
INCLUDE PIECES FROM MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS ON A COMMON THEME

WORKBOOK ZINES
WRITTEN IN A WAY READERS CAN FILL IN/ INTERACT WITH
EG. THE YEAR COMPASS FOR NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS

SCENE ZINES

HEALTH/ SELF-CARE ZINES

ART ZINES

- CAN BE SINGLE-ISSUE OR BECOME A SERIES
- OFTEN FRAGMENTARY, REVEALING, INTIMATE, HONEST, KIND, ANGRY, INARTICULATELY ARTICULATE, UNCOMPROMISING, RESISTANT, IRREVERANT...

APPROACHING ZINING

A WRITING WARMUP

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SET A TIMER FOR 5 OR 10 MINUTES

WRITE A BUNCH OF RESPONSES TO:

- WHAT I'D LOVE TO ZINE ABOUT IS...
(INC. TOPICS, FORMATS, CONTENTS, ZINE TYPE ETC.)

IF/WHEN YOU STRUGGLE, SWITCH TO

- WHAT HOLDS ME BACK FROM ZINING (THIS) IS...
(INC. PRACTICAL, CULTURAL, EMOTIONAL, ETC.)

IF NO LIMITS,
ANYTHING
WAS POSSIBLE

NATALIE GOLDBERG - WRITING DOWN THE BONES

- ① KEEP YOUR HAND MOVING (NO PAUSES/READING BACK)
- ② DON'T CROSS OUT/EDIT AS YOU GO (LEAVE MISTAKES)
- ③ DON'T WORRY ABOUT SPELLING, GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, STAYING IN THE LINES, ETC.
- ④ LOSE CONTROL
- ⑤ DON'T THINK
- ⑥ GO FOR THE JUGULAR (SCARY/RAW STUFF WELCOME)

IF YOU DON'T ENJOY WRITING YOU COULD...

- INTERVIEW PEOPLE FOR YOUR ZINE AND INCLUDE THEIR WORDS (WITH CONSENT)
- INVITE SOMEONE ELSE TO CONTRIBUTE THE WORDS FOR YOUR ZINE
- MAKE ZINES WITHOUT WORDS, ONLY IMAGES
- INCORPORATE FAVOURITE QUOTES
- CREATE FOUND POETRY WITH WORDS CLIPPED/CUT FROM STORIES, MAGAZINES, EMAILS...
- ANYTHING ELSE YOU LIKE, IT'S YOUR ZINE!

ALSO GOOD - BIRD BY BIRD - ANNE LAMOTT

A DRAWING WARM UP

LYNDA BARRY - MAKING COMICS

- LIKE NATALIE GOLDBERG'S WRITING GUIDANCE, LYNDA BARRY IS ALL ABOUT GETTING BACK TO OUR CHILD WAYS OF DRAWING, BEFORE WE - AND DOMINANT CULTURE - GOT IN OUR WAY
- KIDS DON'T SEPARATE WORDS & PICTURES OR WORRY ABOUT QUALITY. THEY'RE HAPPY TO COPY THINGS
- WAX CRAYONS, POSTER PAINTS, FELT TIPS, COLLAGE ...

FOLD PAPER INTO 6
DRAW ONE OF THESE THINGS IN
DECREASING AMOUNTS OF TIME

- A HAPPY CAT
- A SKELETON
- A SUPER HERO
Eg. BATMAN

60 SECONDS GO!	45 SECONDS GO!	30 SECONDS GO!
20 SECONDS GO!	10 SECONDS GO!	5 SECONDS GO!

- A SEA MONSTER
 - A SPACE SHIP
 - A GARDEN
 - YOURSELF
- TRY ANOTHER ONE!

IF YOU DON'T ENJOY DRAWING YOU COULD...

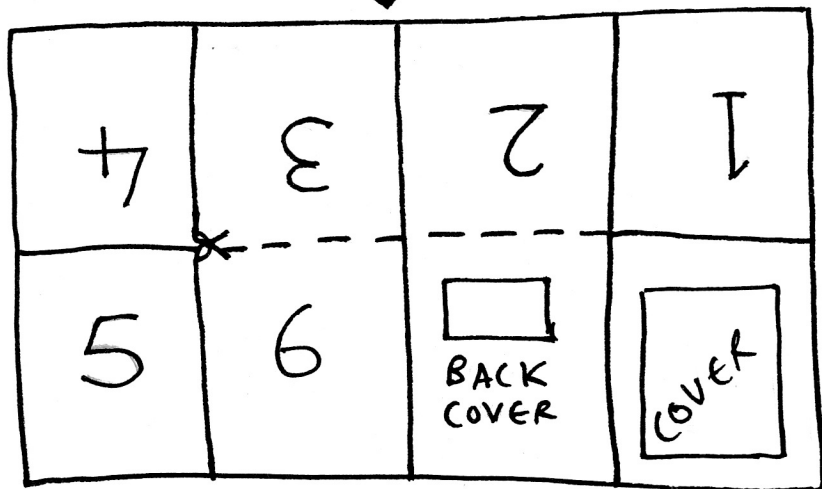
- TEAM UP WITH SOMEONE(S) WHO DO(ES)
- MAKE ZINES WITH JUST TYPED/HANDWRITTEN WORDS
- USE FOUND IMAGES, EG. COLLAGING FROM MAGAZINES
- USE YOUR OWN PHOTOGRAPHS
- INCLUDE MORE ABSTRACT SHAPES, COLOURS, PATTERNS
- FIND IMAGES ONLINE TO INCLUDE
- ANYTHING ELSE YOU LIKE, IT'S YOUR ZINE

ALSO GOOD - SCOTT McLOVD - MAKING COMICS

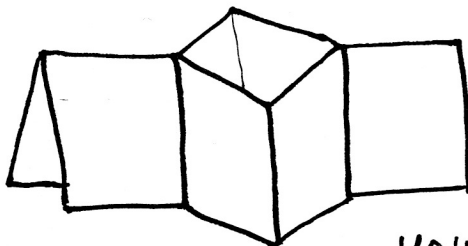
ZINE 1 - A ONE-PAGE PER ZINE

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- NOW TO MAKE YOUR FIRST ZINE!
- FOLD A PIECE OF A4 (OR OTHER SIZE) PAPER LIKE THIS. FOLD & CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE HERE



FOLD IT UP & PUSH TOGETHER



YOU'LL FIND THAT IT CREATES A BOOKLET WITH THE PAGE NUMBERING FROM HERE

- TAKE AROUND 30 MINUTES TO MAKE A QUICK ZINE WITH YOUR BOOKLET
- JUST A FEW WORDS AND/OR PICTURES ON EACH PAGE
- YOU CAN MAKE IT ABOUT ANYTHING YOU LIKE, BUT IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN IDEA...

SELF/COLLECTIVE CARE PER ZINE

STANDS FOR 'PERSONAL'

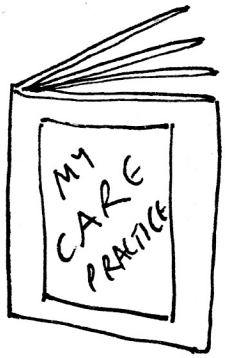
- USE THE ZINE TO TELL THE READER ABOUT ONE SELF/COLLECTIVE CARE PRACTICE THAT YOU FIND HELPFUL
- YOU COULD STRUCTURE IT STEP-BY-STEP HOW YOU DO IT (EG. A COUPLE OF PAGES BEFORE, DURING, AFTER)
- OR WITH THE PROMPTS: WHAT, WHY, WHEN, WHERE, HOW, WITH WHOM
- OR LIKE A RECIPE OR HOW-TO GUIDE
- OR ANY OTHER WAY YOU WANT

REMEMBER

IT'S MEANT TO BE SCRUFFY

ANY KINDS OF PICTURES (P.11) - STICK FIGURES FINE

ANY KINDS OF WORDS (P.10)



YOU MADE A ZINE!
YOU ARE A ZINE MAKER!

ZINE 2 - A PAGE FOR A COLLABORATIVE ZINE

- TAKE AROUND 30 MINUTES TO MAKE A PAGE FOR A REAL/IMAGINARY COLLABORATIVE ZINE ON AN A5 SHEET OF PAPER
- THIS TIME TAKE A LITTLE LONGER TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO CONVEY, AND HOW TO DO IT BEFORE YOU GET STARTED
- IF YOU'RE DOING THIS IN A GROUP, OR KNOW SOME FRIENDS WHO ARE WORKING THROUGH THIS ZINE TOO, YOU COULD ALL MAKE PAGES ON THE SAME THEME AND PUT THEM TOGETHER INTO A COLLAB ZINE
- FEEL FREE TO PICK YOUR OWN THEME THAT'S RELEVANT TO YOU ALL, OR GO WITH THE ONE SUGGESTED ON THE NEXT PAGE →

E.G.

WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME

DRAWINGS, STORIES, REVIEWS OF OUR FAV. TV SHOW

FAVOURITE RECIPES

COLLECTED RANTS ABOUT SOMETHING WE ALL HATE

ONE THING I LEARNT ABOUT X EXPLAINED SIMPLY

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR COMMUNITY

REFLECTIONS ON A (SHARED) IDENTITY

PICK AN EMOTION AND (ALL) WRITE/DRAW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT (OR PICTURE IT AS A MONSTER!)



SEE REWRITING-THE-RULES/ZINES

WELCOMING YOUR MONSTER FEELINGS

SUGGESTED COLLAB ZINE

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- ★ MAKE A PAGE FOR A COLLAB ZINE ON ADVICE YOU'D GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELVES ON SURVIVING/RESISTING/THRIVING IN THE WORLD YOU FOUND YOURSELF IN
- ★ YOU COULD PICK A SPECIFIC WORLD (EG (HIGHER) EDUCATION, YOUR WORKPLACE, COMMUNITY, OR GROUP) OR MAKE IT GENERAL

FORMS YOUR PAGE COULD TAKE

- A LIST OF STRATEGIES
- A LETTER TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF
- DIALOGUE WITH A YOUNGER SELF
- COMIC OF YOU TIME-TRAVELLING BACK TO A KEY MOMENT
- A WORKBOOK PAGE FOR THE READER TO COMPLETE
- POEM/HAIKU/WORDCLOUD/IMAGE CLOUD
- MINDMAP (WORDS/IMAGES) • REGULAR MAP
- PICTURE OF A KEY MEMORY YOU WANT THEM TO KNOW ABOUT
- ADVICE COLUMN • STORY
- FLOW CHART • GRAPH
- SELF-HELP HOW-TO STYLE
- A BSTRACT DRAWING/COLLAGUE
- ANYTHING ELSE YOU LIKE

IF YOU'RE IN A GROUP - COLLECT THE PAGES TOGETHER & SCAN/COPY FOR EVERYONE (WITH CONSENT!)

SEE - LETTER TO MY LITTLE QUEER SELF - NOTPENCIL PRESS

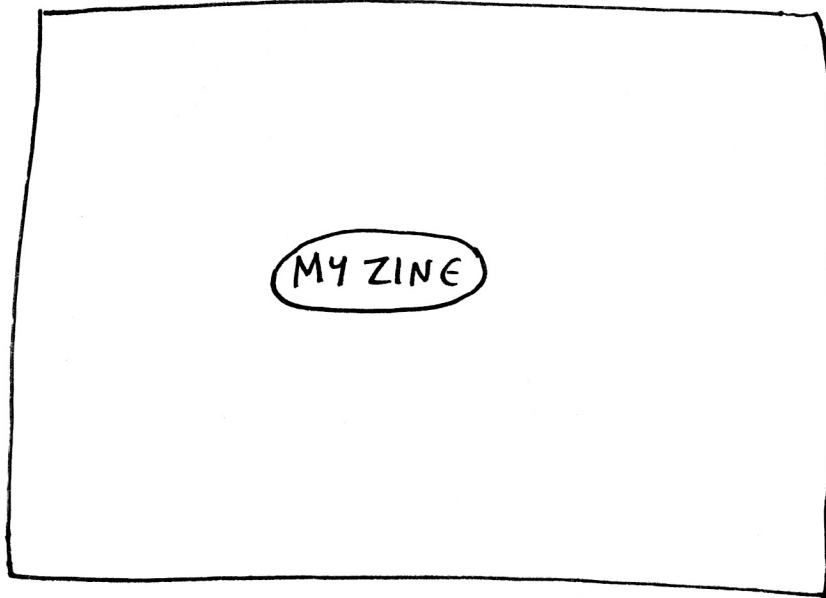
ZINE 3 - PLAN A FULL ZINE

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- ★ GIVE YOURSELF 30 MINS TO 60 MINS TO PLAN A FULL ZINE ON SOMETHING THAT MATTERS TO YOU - IN WRITING &/OR PICS
- ★ IF YOU HAVE SPACE IT CAN BE GREAT TO TAKE TIME TO SIT OR WALK AND LET YOUR MIND WANDER BEFORE EACH OF THESE STAGES (& EACH PAGE WHEN YOU MAKE A ZINE) BUT IT'S FINE HERE TO WORK THROUGH QUICK WITH ONE IDEA TO TRY OUT THE PROCESS

WHAT?

NOTE DOWN ANYTHING YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ZINE ABOUT - NOTHING OFF LIMITS

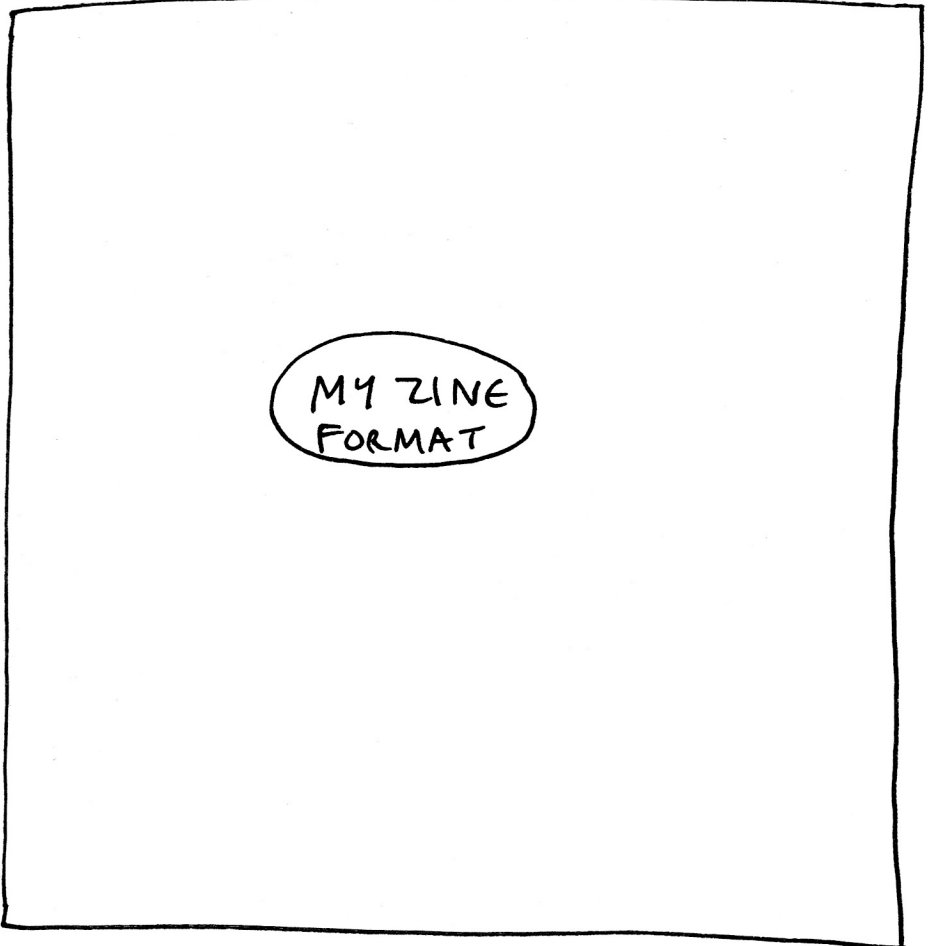


PICK ONE TO TRY PLANNING OUT

HOW?

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THINK BACK TO EVERYTHING WE'VE COVERED
IN THIS ZINE, AND ANY ZINES YOU'VE SEEN -
WHAT KIND OF ZINE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE?
WHAT SIZE/FORMAT? WHAT BALANCE OF WORDS/
PICS? HANDMADE OR ON A COMPUTER?
ANYTHING ELSE?

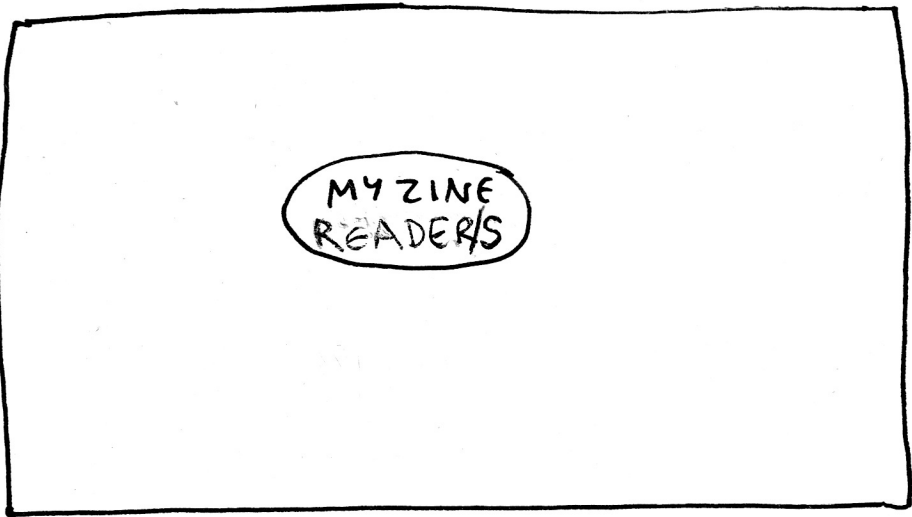


MY ZINE
FORMAT

TRY TO BE GUIDED BY WHAT FEELS GOOD,
LIVELY, CURIOUS, EXCITING RATHER THAN
WHAT YOU THINK IT SHOULD BE

WHO?

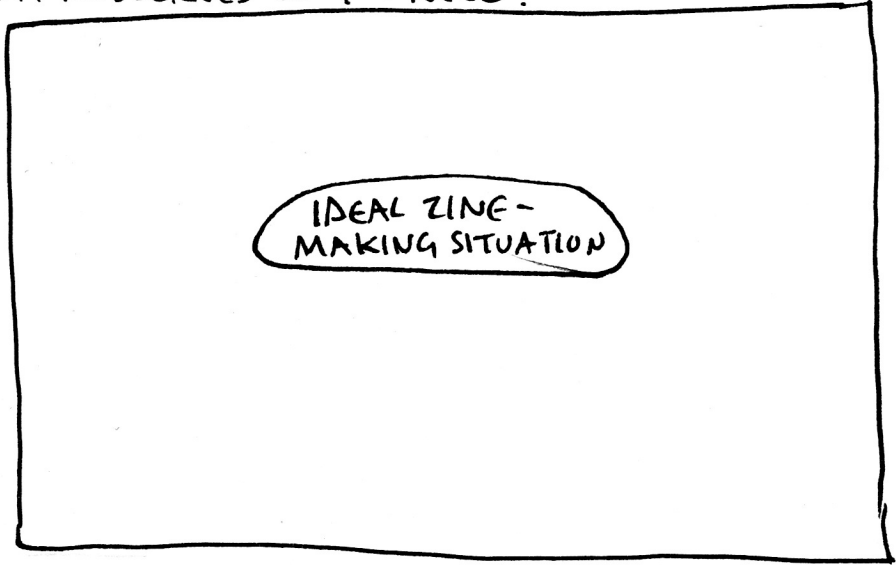
WHO WOULD THE AUDIENCE BE FOR THIS ZINE?
(JUST YOU IS ABSOLUTELY FINE)



HOW MIGHT YOU MAKE IT ACCESSIBLE/ENGAGING TO THEM?

WHERE / WHEN?

WHERE & WHEN MIGHT YOU MOST ENJOY MAKING YOUR ZINE? EG. AT HOME, IN A CAFE, ALONE, WITH OTHERS, GRADUALLY OVER WEEKS, IN ONE WEEKEND...
WHAT RESOURCES DO YOU NEED?



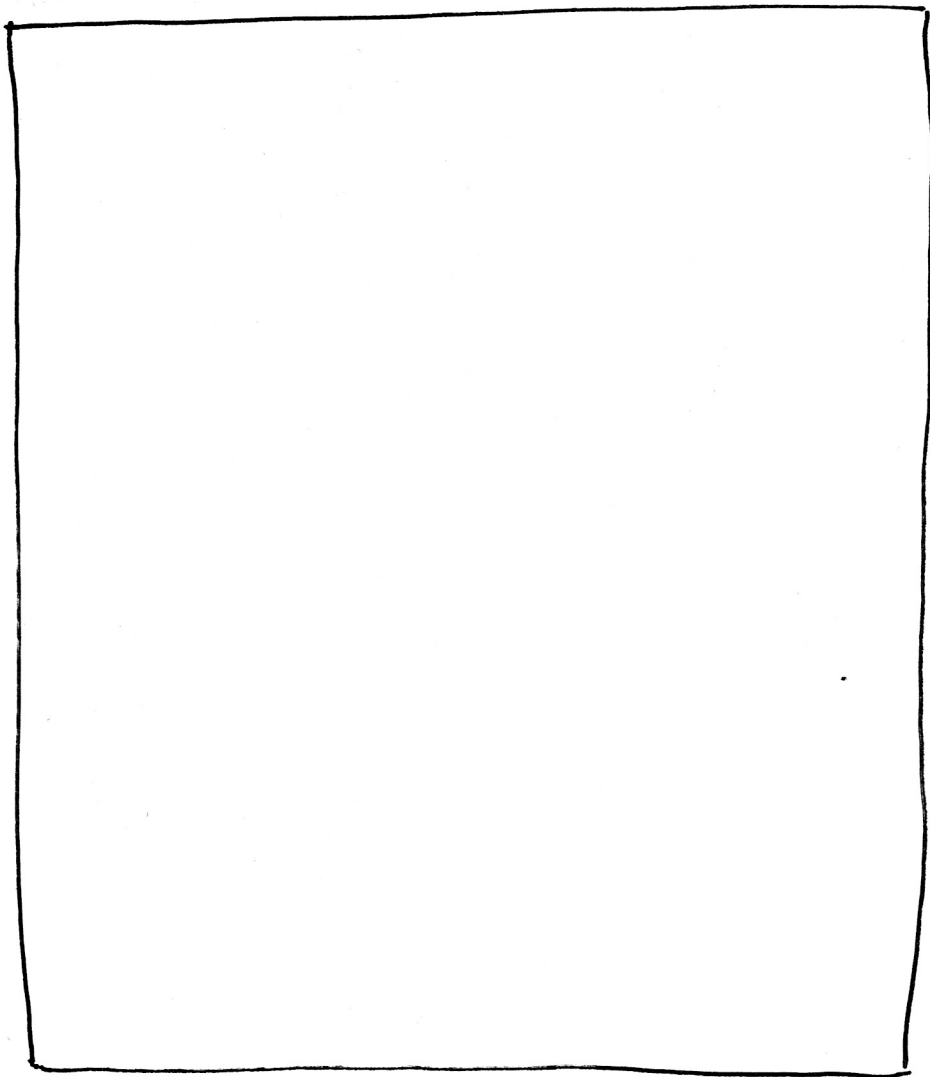
WHAT? (AGAIN)

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TAKE THIS PAGE TO ROUGH OUT THE PLAN/
STRUCTURE FOR YOUR ZINE - AS A MIND-MAP,
LIST, CONTENTS PAGE (YOU CAN RE-ORDER AS MUCH
AS YOU LIKE)

OR YOU COULD MAKE A MINI ZINE & ROUGH OUT THE
PAGES ON THAT, OR FOLDED PAPER

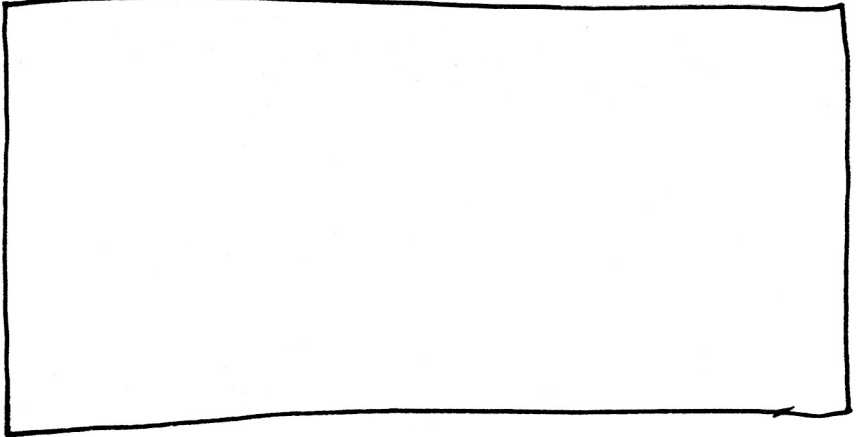
OR FREE WRITE AN INTRODUCTION SAYING WHAT YOU
WANT TO DO IN THE ZINE & WHY



REFLECTIONS

20

NOW YOU'VE MADE 3 ZINES/PLANS/PAGES!
HOW WAS THAT FOR YOU?



DO YOU WANT TO TAKE ZINE-MAKING OR READING FURTHER? IF SO, YOU MIGHT LIKE TO:

- MAKE THE ZINE YOU PLANNED OUT, OR ANOTHER ZINE
- MAKE A ZINE PAGE OR MINI-ZINE EVERY DAY FOR A WEEK OR EVERY WEEK FOR TWO MONTHS
- VISIT A LOCAL ZINE FAIR
- VISIT AN IN-PERSON OR ONLINE ZINE LIBRARY OR ZINE ARCHIVE →
- SEARCH OUT ZINES ON YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST ONLINE (EG. ETSY)
- READ MORE ABOUT ZINES →
- GET TOGETHER TO ZINE COLLABORATIVELY OR ALONGSIDE OTHER ZINE-MAKERS
- SEARCH 'ZINES' ONLINE & FIND OUT MORE

"I love thinking of zines as spells that can travel throughout the world to tell stories and share skills and knowledge ... You can hide inside them when things get tough and you can experience another person's world intimately or escape into some place brighter than your own. Zines give us a chance to shift the narratives we're exposing ourselves to and to water the kinds of creative eco systems that are more aligned with our values than mainstream media." from *Rituals* by Yarrow Magdalena (yarrowmagdalena.com)

FURTHER RESOURCES

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My zines

- rewriting-the-rules.com/zines
- megjohnandjustin.com/publications

About zines

- teaching.ellenmueller.com/foundations-101/resources/zines
- Lea Cooper - <https://thepolyphony.org/tag/in-the-zine-house>, zinejam.com/blog-1/zines-101
- Duncombe, S. (2017) Notes from Underground: Zines and the Politics of Alternative Culture. Microcosm Culture.
- Holly Casio - this is fake DIY - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgcU91tUu45utiwuw_6oShBrfRoAhSL_YeiTitVeClo

Mad, crip, queer zines

- graphicmedicine.org/conference-keynote-meg-john-barker/, graphicmedicine.org/drawingtogether
- takeitbackzine.com
- Madzines.org
- Asylum Magazine, 2015, special issues on comics - asylummagazine.org/2018/09/drawing-comics-and-social-aspects-of-mental-health-by-meg-john-barker/

Zine archives

- queerzinelibrary.com
- Zinewiki.com
- Tate museum collection - <https://www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/talk/show-and-tell-zine-collection-launch>
- British library collection - <https://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/21cc/counterculture/doityourself/doityourself.html>
- Broken pencil - <https://brokenpencil.com>
- Lynda Barry - drawnandquarterly.com/author/lynda-barry
- Natalie Goldberg - nataliegoldberg.com

SUPPORT MY WORK

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS ZINE, AND CAN AFFORD TO, PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING MY PATREON, OR MAKING A ONE-OFF DONATION TO MY PAYPAL -

- PATREON.COM/MEGJOHN BARKER
 - PAYPAL.ME/MEGJOHN BARKER
-

CHECK OUT MY ZINES, FREE BOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES ON

REWRITING-THE-RULES.COM