

Publication and Protest (ADAA5005)



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The Research Report

- A rationale (what does your body of work address contextually?)

This book consists of 62 images, all showcasing behind-the-scenes documentation of interviews based around grassroots venues and the bands they support. Each image has been carefully selected to show the documentation process over a 4-day period. Swansea Arena then used these images to promote their up-and-coming event called the House Party in the hope of raising funds for the music event trust; this organisation supports these grassroots music venues and helps the music venues through the cost-of-living crisis. The hope is to bring some awareness of how grateful these up-and-coming bands are to these venues, as without them, they as bands would not be able to show and grow their music, giving them the space and freedom to promote themselves.

- A summary of research activity (note key primary and secondary research)

Much research went into creating this project, including analysing various photobooks (*sea lemon*, 2012) and learning different binding methods (*Porsche and Coffee*, 2021) . The inspiration for this project came from one of the most iconic photobooks, *The Americans* by Robert Frank (*Kerouac, J*, 1993) . Placement was utilised from how each image was on a single page, knowing that the book has a fraction of the actual images was relatable, considering the book that was going to be made had originally begun with thousands of images. Given the considerable number of images initially considered for this project, the selection process was important for inclusion in the book.

- What practical skills and methods have you developed and demonstrated in the making of your publication (consider binding/ layout/ graphic design)

Never making a book before was difficult at first, but after researching, it became more important to make sure the book was made to a high standard and by hand as it would reflect the care and attention that has gone into the design and layout. Although there was an option to have the book produced by outsourcing companies, this would not

show the care and attention to detail. Additionally, as I had never used any outsourcing companies before, there was no way of knowing how it would have turned out. By making it by hand, this gave greater control of the process and if there were anything needing to be changed there would be the time to rectify and issues.

- How do the methods of production speak to the subject matter?

This photobook begins by asking a question not many consider, provoking the audience to think of the reason and meaning of the book. The book has train tickets as the front cover, this is to highlight some of the struggles these music venues face. A huge factor for grass route venues is the lack of transportation links particularly late at night, for example the last train to leave Swansea is at 10:32pm, therefore many people are opting to seek other towns and cities where they have better late-night transport to accommodate their travelling arrangements. When music venues were asked, late-night transport was a huge factor as non-local people would leave just after ten to make sure they would get back home. Also, to break up the book into each section, there is a print of a single-size train ticket. These are specifically return tickets which contextually link with the meaning behind the book.

- Evaluate the final book and any changes you would make for future publications.

After having so many different prototypes, some worked better than others, and one thing that was not really taken into consideration at the beginning was the difference between the gsm types of photo paper. Originally the idea was to use glossy paper, after running some test prints one was 300gsm glossy photo paper the other was lustre. Comparing the two it soon obvious that 300gsm was too thick for a photobook and the images looked better on the lustre paper. I asked Dafydd Williams if there was a lower gsm paper in stock to see if this was a better choice, the option available were Photo Rag book and album 220gsm paper and this felt better as it had more flexibility. After looking online at the two different types of paper, the decision was to go for a Premium Satin (lustre) paper 200gsm and order double what was needed in case of any errors. After testing this type of paper on a few images, it worked nicely, has extra flexibility, and produces lovely crisp images, giving a nice, clean, professional look. After the first attempt at printing, it became apparent that there was not enough binding edge, as the book was a bit thicker than originally intended. This was learnt from this process, so giving a one-inch binding edge would be enough to create a solid bind. Also, due to using the guillotine, the decision was to cut each image by hand, which enabled a more accurate and clean edge. Also, the option to use acetate on the front and back of the

book gives both covers an extra layer of protection, meaning they would not get damaged when being handled and put down. Through the learning process, there have been multiple considerations, if doing this again I would consider different methods of binding, for example using a staple gun did not work for thicker books and was just over a millimetre off, this meant when opening the book the binding split in half. To resolve the issue without damaging the book, the decision was to use some tack nails to reinforce the binding edge, this was very effective as it gave the photobook stability and strength. Additionally, through testing it gave the book a better feel, as I asked a few people to feel the book and give me their thoughts. Overall, if I had more time to bind this book, I would have made it more polished by making a few changes to the binding methods.

Bibliography

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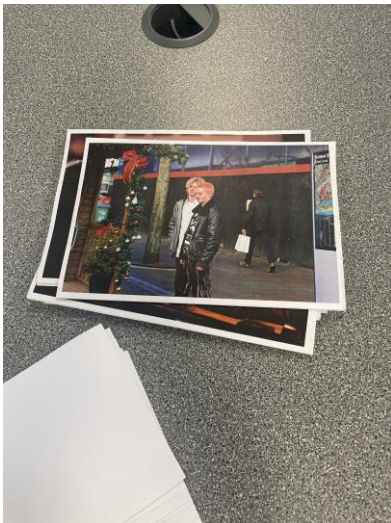
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Images



Photobook experimenting.



Photobook making Proseses

