



ACTIVISM *through* ZINES®



Chella: I've used zines as activism for a long time now, and it all started with The 24 Hour Zine Thing. After making *Chart Your Cycle*, I used zines to deconstruct

representations of menstruation in the media in *Adventures in Menstruating*, share Sheffield zine history in *NMX 26*, advocate for libraries in *Low Tech Library*, support SAYiT (an LGBT Youth charity) with homophobia in religion, and engage the public in space exploration in *It's Not You, I Just Need Space*. I've also had the pleasure of participating in collaborative zine projects, including *Shape and Situate* by Melanie Maddison and *Hair Today...! Hair Tomorrow...!?* By Ladyfest Sheffield, touring the Mobile Menstrual Zine Library, and leading zine-in-a-day workshops for activist communities. Whether you're handing out a zine at a demo, talking back to corporations, chronicling a movement or a moment in time, or sharing your personal lived experience, citizen journalism is powerful.



Lee: I teach about radical sex-positivity. Zines are both about personal exploration and growth, and also about community (coming together around zines, learning and growing together), so I think zines are a great place to help shift sex cultures toward consent and respect!



Noemi: Many of the reviews of my zine described it as political. I was simply telling the stories from the perspective of a Chicana single mom living poor in South Texas. The zines I did where I gave a platform to women of colour survivors of domestic & sexual violence - those I consider the best zines I was involved in.



Erin: I write about being disabled in my zines because I want others to know that the lives of disabled people are worth something, and we need the same rights and access as able-bodied/neurotypical individuals.



Cara: LaDIYfest Sheffield made a collaborative zine compiling experiences of people's relationships with their body hair. It was inspiring. Encouraging Body hair rules!



Sarah: I've done pages in comp zines - one on body hair and one on feminism. It was fun! I hope people got something out of it.



Fliss: I've used zines to highlight library cuts and closures, to report on library campaigns, and to illustrate the worth of libraries for society.



Steve: I'm getting ready to do a zine about supporting local small businesses.



Jacob: I helped organize the Leeds Uni occupation of the Michael Sadler Building in 2010 following mass student protests against a tripling of fees and eradication of EMA. On the first day, some other feminists of the collective created a zine to express some early feelings and thoughts about it. The moments when the occupation was forming placed a question mark over who was running the building we came to occupy and how they would run it. The activity of zinemaking put a similar question mark over printed media



Rosy: Chella's zine making workshop blossomed into the kick-ass 'You Mean A Woman Can Open It?' zine. We did the Occupation zine a

few weeks later precisely because that skills-sharing happened. For anyone thinking of chronicling their activism in zine form, throw your thoughts out of your head, on to the page - to the rest of the world.



Vera: I set up the Brautigan Book Club in response to cult Beat writer & counterculture icon Richard Brautigan, to use the man and his work as a starting point. What emerged is that non-writers, non-artists, non-makers suddenly found that, over the year, they gained confidence and started creating. The end of year zine was a celebration of their ongoing and newfound voices. For me, this is a very potent kind of activism. Planting the seed inside people and them going on to live their lives in a different and positive way.



Charlotte: I created Queer Zine Fest London, because I want to facilitate a space where queer DIY publishing rules!



Sam: I tell short stories through Sloucher Zine that share marginalised perspectives because life frustrates me so much that making up stories, both dramatic and funny, feels like the catharsis I need. Zines are like open mic nights - you've got the soapbox for yourself. Through them I've achieved some catharsis about life's vicissitudes (bad jobs, break ups, frustration, depression). Give it a shot!



Cath: I edit a compzine called Pandora Press which encourages Swansea women to share their stories and their voices in a supportive and nurturing environment. I also make feminist mini zines (e.g. "Reasons to be a feminist") and leave them inside the pages of glossy magazines for buyers to discover! I use zines for activism because they're easy and cheap to make and distribute; a fun, visceral way to spread an important message!

I asked my friends if they'd ever used zines in their activism, and illustrated their responses. Since this was a 24 hour zine (which, okay, has technically bent the rules a bit now because I'm looking at the clock and let's just say some time has passed), I could only include the friends that have gotten back to me in the time it took to make this. There are way more examples out there - this is just a taster. Big thanks to my pals, and to Ladyfest Leeds for inviting me to talk about arts and activism. This zine was made for the 24 Hour Zine Thing 2013!

xChella

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