

small press

Zines: Self Publishing from Australasia

8 - 23 May 2014



They just made this story up!?

I was having a catch-up coffee with Ramp Gallery curator Kim Paton last year when I was compelled to blurt, "Hey, why don't we do a Hamilton Zinefest!?" I immediately felt like a bit of a heel, as I'd assured Kim that I'd come as a friend; that I'd no agenda to ask anything of Kim and her curatorial powers. Yet I betrayed this intention because a bunch of things collided in my caffeine fuelled brain to form some sort of epiphany.

Firstly, here was a woman with a proven interest in public sculpture, relational art, whatever one calls the kind of ideas expressed in projects like Paton's own *Free Store*, or Ramp's *Public Good* series, which forayed from Ramp Gallery into dialogue with Hamilton's public spaces and art interfaces other than that of the white cube.

Secondly, whilst Hamilton had no zine scene, that I was aware of, I had recently come to discover that the seminal Wellington Zinefest of 2007 was a total contrivance on the organisers' part. And so, "Why don't we do a Hamilton Zinefest", of which this exhibition is now part.

In 2007 I was asked by Wellington City Libraries' Kylie Buck to have a stall at the inaugural Wellington Zinefest. Apparently I demurred that, "I was too old for that sort of thing", fearful that I'd be the old guy amongst a throng of teen punks. Nevertheless, Kylie persisted and in September of 2007 I turned up at the Wesley Church Hall with my wife and small daughters and my cardboard box of back issues of my own *Incredibly Hot Sex with Hideous People*. Clean young fashionistas launched indie magazines, rubbing shoulders with anarchist punks selling angry truths about the crackpot dictators of various international backwaters. The comics artists seemed tight, huddled together during the comics jam that was a scheduled event on the programme. The neighbouring stall remained empty until zine queen Kerry Ann Lee

stumbled in to begin the late assembly of the pages of her and Dane Taylor's hot-off-the-press *Celebretard* magazine.

So this was the Wellington zine scene; I was impressed. It wasn't until recently that Kylie Buck informed me that a good *half* of the stallholders had to be coerced into participating. Kylie loved zines and was determined to have her zinefest. There was no Wellington zine scene. These were a bunch of fledgling magazine producers, anarchists, feminists, metal fans, comics creators, collage artists, poets and... me, all involved in isolated or cliquey acts of DIY publishing. Buck recognised the common ground that is labour-of-love self-publishing, and that this was reason enough to corral all these disparate individuals and small groups into a single space. And she was right. 2013 saw the 7th consecutive annual Wellington Zinefest take place, without any help from Buck, and enjoying what has been a phenomenal yearly increase in Wellington zine activity.

This exhibition presents some recent results of just that zine activity. Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin are all represented by titles made available at their local zinefests, zinefests that owe something to the Wellington model of 2007. And, as the dialogue begins to link up with exciting activities in Australia, we have several titles via the folk at Melbourne's Sticky Institute, champions of Australian zines. Sympathetic to Kim Paton's other curatorial forays from the Ramp Gallery mothership, we have the Hamilton Zinefest market day from 10 AM - 4 PM, May 17 at the Creative Waikato HQ, 131 Alexandra Street. Expect zine stalls, zine workshops, zine competition and celebration. DIY or die.

Bryce Galloway

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For the past two months packages and envelopes have been arriving almost daily on my desk. Different shapes and sizes - standard courier bags through to weirdly constructed envelopes - recycled, handmade, sometimes even appliqued with fruity collaged imagery. Beyond the obvious enjoyment and anticipation of receiving personally addressed mail every day that doesn't bear a State Insurance or IRD logo on the outside, it's a strange and entirely exhilarating way to compile a show.

Small press is curated by myself and long-time New Zealand zine maker and artist Bryce Gallo-way - who took many of the titles in *small press* to an earlier iteration of the show in Frankfurt as part of the 2012 International book fair. The show presents a kind of ad hoc survey of zines, independent magazines and books and pretty much anything else that might fall into a self-published category from New Zealand and Australia. While you could argue that the binding element that puts all these titles together under one roof together is the independent, do-it-yourself ethos that drives people to self publish, no theme or thread could be drawn across the almost unimaginable amount of subjects, genres and design styles spanning the content of this show. As Bryce mentions in his introduction, it is no wonder that Wellington's first ever Zine-fest (established in 2007 by Kylie Buck) was a contrived event, a constructed community of sorts. The contributors come from anywhere and everywhere - metal fanatics, design aesthetes, poets, self-confessed diarists all feature.

The one thing they loosely share in common is a means of production. *Exercises in Futility* by Christchurch zine maker Jenny Crowther is small and modest, diary style thoughts, confessions and daily observations sit on each page - poetic and poignant, sad and funny, each zine documenting a different month from the maker's life.

Auckland based comic artist Sam Orchard's *Queer 101* is direct and educational, he describes it as 'a super simple comic guide to sex, sexuality and gender' and that's exactly what it is - using the accessibility of the comic format to be bold, direct and helpful. Wellington photographer John Lake's first issue of *Up The Punks* is the outcome of his recent residency in Beijing. The release of issue 1 puts into print content from various projects occurring under the same name since 1999 and includes collaborations with artists, musicians and zine makers. Kerry Ann Lee's latest collaboration with artist Kim Lowe documents a live zine making process, which took place over a week in New Brighton, Christchurch. Daily workshops and events were held with local members of migrant communities and compiled alongside the artists' own research and experiences in the area. *Alternating Currents* reads as a previously unseen snapshot into a community's past, present and possible future.

Also featuring in the show are magazines, publications and books from a range of New Zealand independent publishers including Rebel Press, Ramp Press, Rim Books, DDMMYY, split/fountain, Index, Pikitia Press, Clouds and Lawrence and Gibson. From Luke Wood and Stuart Geddes' beautifully produced and highly popular motorcycle magazine *Head Full of Snakes* and the cult following of *White Fungus* through to political, art and literary books, these titles may represent larger budgets and wider circulation but speak to the peripheral edges of publishing where an ethos of originality, independence and the opportunities for strange, clever and creative voices to be heard reigns supreme.

Kim Paton

Refugee Art Project Zine/10 22 38 Astoria/Open Face Sandwich/Dirt Sale/Fifty Unused Zine Titles/You Deserve To D.I.Y./The Downward Spiral/Great South Road And South Side/Black Wax Zine/Ora Nui/Team 3000 Press/Seeing With Closed Eyes/Walter's Cruddy Collection/NZ Zine Review/Somewhere Else/Oh Hi/Beats The Kangaroo/My Hands Lust For You/The Doll Haus/Notes from the Cleaner/What I Wore/Demure As Fuck/Exercises In Futility/Book/John Key - GC Prime Minister/Word/TV Land/Le Roy/Once/Insect Zine/SSN/DUD/Funtime Comics/Incredibly Hot Sex With Hideous People/The Silver Bulletin/Curiosities/Nerves/Things We're Not Talking About/Untitled/This Place is Eek/An Urban Quest For Chlorophyll/A Field Guide To Camera Species/You Should Have Come Here When You Were Not Here/Sheep Zine/Hugh & Cry/Image Of A Man: Problem Untitled/The John Dory Report/Drawings/Voicetracks Voicetracks/Vincent Needs Work/Hullo Horror/My Steg, Martyr/A Rainbow Reader/Liberty Comix/Let Me Be Frank/Vegetarian/Maanaaki Tanga/China Time/Books For The Blind/3 Fairy Tales About Apples/Rescuing Drew/Up The Punks/Permanent Vacation/Alternating Currents/You Can't Sell Art Wearing Jellies/Dead Kitty/Love & Other Indoor Sports/Christian Brutalist Times/Interior Life/Shhhhhh Shhhhhh Shhhhhh Shhhhhh Shangri-La/Be Here Or Here/Updated Report Of Observations Which Somehow Seem To Reflect Abstractly On Life/Plant Feelings/Slumber Party/Mellow Yellow/Dating Westerners/Hiatus/Geek Prayer/Nice Things/Porn Flowers/Reality TV: Hoarders/On The Exhale/The Day The Raids Came/Remains To Be Seen/Imminent Rebellion/The National Grid/Incredible Feeling/If Destroyed Still True: Iraqi Kurdistan Edition/Sex Industry Apologist/Not Afraid Of Ruins/Intercolonial/My Gender Is/Transfabulous Magnet/Queer 101/My Cocks Come In All Shapes And Sizes/Batman & Robin/Hulk & Iron Man/Born Free And Equal/Cool Trash/"Cuz It's Every Kiwi's Dream To Make The ALL BLACKS TEAM!"/Mind - Kraft/Mermaids & Dolphins/Cats & Witches/Princesses & Aliens/Alive/Oki's Penguins/Animals /Dressing Up/Book Of Poetry & Stories/Form Next To Form Next To Form/ Thank You For Your Love/How To Be Alone/Tarot Magic/Plastic Knife/Under/A Man Walks Out Of A Bar/Into The Black Hole/Planting Guide For August/Daily Secretion/The Good The Bad/Health, Wealth And Happiness/ Glaxo Goes To Mexico/The Mouse/Curse + Cures/D'Ya Wanna Bible?/Bold Centuries/Disgusting Mass/The Merger/Unlimited Sedation/The Terrorist At The End Of This Book/Dailies/Ad Lib/Distracted Reader/Home/The Boys Club/Work-Book/Action Man Adam/ Local Time: Horotiu/Hermes Lack Of Words/Explorations In Indexing/Journeys Through Ecology/Home/Shitty Jokes/Evidence/Neighborhood Cats/Busker Folk/The Length Owl/White Fungus/Journal Of Symonds St Studies/The Means By Which We find Our Way/Baz And Bruce/Fungus Boy Adventures/Wark/Bristle/Holocaust Rex Book One: At The Cursed Gates Of Koch/Princess Seppuku And The Hunt For Robot-X/Princess Seppuku In The Lower Depths/Cupcake Monster/True Facts/Truth Wire/Headful Of Snakes/You/Adversaries/Secret Artist Club/Pay Through the Soul/Moa/Love Stories/Dreamboat/Somewhere Else/

Safdar Ahmed/Anonymous/Anonymous/Dan Arps/Dane Bailey/-/Tony Beyer/Black Wax Zine/Anton Blank/Liam Bowen/Kylie Buck/Buzzferchurnt/Jemma Cheer/Xin Cheng/Aaron Christiansen/Sergio Comaga/Marc Conaco/David Cook/Rach Croft/Grafik Heart/Jenny Crowther/Hayden Currie/DDMMYY/Dead Zero Xpress/Dead Zero Xpress/DUD/Funtime Comics/Bryce Galloway/Matt Galloway/David Gardener/Stuart Geddes/Simon Gennard/Jenny Gillam/Darren Glass/Ben Goldin/Brannavan Gnanalingam/Jai Hall/Matt Henley/Hugh & Cry/Index Press/Dieneke Janden/Alex John/The John Dory Report/T'Nealle Joie/Jan Kemp/Vincent Konrad/Tessa Laird/James Paratii Lainchbury/Sarah Laing/John Lake/Lawrence & Gibson/Kerry Ann Lee/Karys McEwen/Andrew McLeod/Sarah McNeil/Mellow Yellow/Richard Meros/David Merritt/Lucy Meyle/Valerie Morse/The National Grid/Kate Newby/Nine/Nausea Nissenbaum/Stephen Oliver/Sam Orchard/Eli Orzessek/Papakura Art Gallery Comic Class/Dune Patrick/Okie Patrick/Zora Patrick/Nova Paul/Bestian Fox Phelan/Pikitia Press/Plastic Knife/Potroast/Ramp Press/Rebel Press/Wiremu Puke/Mark Purdom/Puriri Press/Rim Books/Lucien Rizos/Ashley Ronning/James Roswell/Hannah Salmon/Gary Silipa/Tessa Stubbing/Sam Thomas/Haruhiko Sameshima/Joseph Scott/Treason Seditio/Silent Army/Thomasin Sleigh/Allan Smith/Ash Spittal/split/fountain/Marc Streeter/Ueoka/Jonty Valentine/Sarah Watson/Sophie Watson/The Waterbear Society/White Fungus/Alex Wild/ Andrea Wilkinson/Brent Willis/Karl Wills/Alex Mitcalfe Wilson/Luke Wood/Amy Yalland/You/Pikitia Press/M Emery/James Davidson/Mat Tait/Buzzferkchurat/

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