

In this session we will be talking about entry-level artist book production. We will be focusing on form and discussing how the basic tools of risograph, paper, and binding can be used to support content through limited run publications.

Artist-books are different from most books in the sense that they intend to be works of art in and of themselves while most books simply intend to display content. Self-produced artist-books are different from other artist-books in that the artist themselves handles the project from idea to production to distribution.

In this regard, as the artist and producer, a series of choices must be made. It's important to consider how to balance the desire to produce everything yourself with the limitations of tools, access to finishing, and the crushing tedium of production. As many bumper stickers have said:



Simply put: producing for yourself comes with a set of formal (and informal) limitations which this session will be exploring and pushing as gifts in form and modifiers for content.

Hot dang!

Questions you may want to ask yourself during your production process... (or not)

RE: Content & Structure

- Is it for yourself or is it for someone else?
- What level of ownership over the final do you want?
- Is it driven by a thesis or driven by a process?
- Do you want someone to "get" it and if so how long should it take before this someone "gets" it?
- Is it a thought-cloud or an essay?
- Is it active or passive in its delivery?
- Is it direct or indirect in its delivery?
- Is it a work of art itself or is it a collection of reproductions of works?
- Is it visual-first or concept-first?
- Is it an original work or a response to another work?
- Does it stand alone or is it a part of a series?

RE: Form

- Should it feel slick or crafty?
- Should it feel expensive or cheap?
- Should it feel like it was made by a human or not?
- Is it color dependent or color independent?
- Is it binding-dependent or binding-independent?
- Is it bound in a traditional or non-traditional method?
- Is it bound at all?
- Is it paper-dependent or paper-independent?
- Do you want to take your time producing it?
- Or do you want to produce it as fast as possible?
- Does it need to be as long as you imagine it?
- Can it be longer?
- Can it be shorter?
- Where do you see it living in its finished form?
A table? A shelf? A wall? A trashcan? The internet?
- Do you want people to pay money for it?
- Do you want it to last?