

From DIY to Collaborative Fields of Experimentation: Feminist Media and Cultural Production Towards Social Change – A Visual Contribution¹

Elke Zobl



“Zines, as a DIY practice, are the very visible expression of “everyone can do it”. It is a possibility of sharing and spreading information, ideas and knowledge and a means of self-teaching. It is also a way of connecting people and ideas.”

*Love Kills Collective
(Romania)*

“I think the whole process of zine making is very empowering, both to the maker and later on the reader. Most of all, I seek satisfaction of the making, the process: dealing with what I used to write to myself as something public-politicizing the personal, and personalizing the political.”

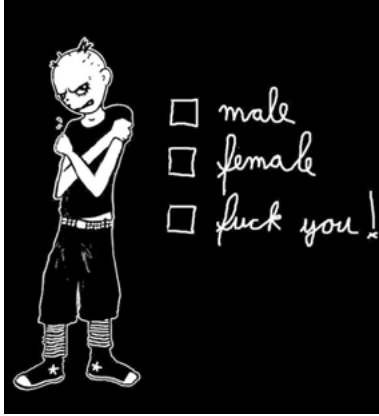
*Editor of Patrol
zine (Israel)*

“What I love about zines is that I get a lot of new perspective on things. It gives me strength.”

(her) riot distro (Schweden)

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“It’s up to you now”: Calling for participation



“DIY is a practice that can be very encouraging and empowering. Skill sharing is simply fun! This is also a kind of community building, where a lot also takes place through exchanges. DIY is a kind of alternative, that is to say: It doesn’t all need to be marketable.”
The Artist of *Trouble X Comics*

Flyer by *Trouble X* (Germany, www.troublex.blogspot.de).
Images by *Trouble X*.



drag. Image by *Trouble X*.
(Germany, www.troublex.blogspot.de), 2007

Taking zine-making to the community

“This DIY ethic is the cornerstone of the political aspect of Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go. We believe zine-making embodies the phrase ‘the personal is political’ by encouraging active participation in the creation of one’s own culture, and independence from mainstream media.”
Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go (USA)

“Zine-making is especially important for teen girls who discover a new avenue for expression that is uncensored; something that they can produce alone, without the need for experts or expensive tools – their tools are their mind and a pen – anyone can do it.”
Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go (USA)



“Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go doesn’t just want to encourage zine making, we also hope to inspire other groups of like-minded folks to start running workshops in their areas too.”
Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go (USA)

„Making Zines, Making History“ a workshop by Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go with Girl Scouts of America troop at the Women’s History Museum and Education Center of San Diego (CA, USA) in October 2006. Photos by: Margarit Nee and Kim Schwenk of Grrrl Zines A-Go-Go.

The upper right photo is from a different event: September 8, 2007, Samuel H. Wentworth Public Library, Center Sandwich, NH, http://gzagg.org/sandwich_photos.html.

Doing-It-Together: Towards open fields of experimentation

"DIY is an approach which understands itself clearly as action-oriented and emancipatory in the sense of detaching oneself from rigid principles. For me, DIY is only then interesting, when it becomes a Do-it-Together and is not confined to the own microcosm."

Stephanie Müller (*rag*treasure*, Germany)

*rag*treasure* (Munich) with their music-text-dance-textile performance "Trash-Recycled-F[e]Mtronics" at the first international women artist festival in Vienna "Her Position in Transition" (March 2006). One of the collective members, Stephanie Müller (in front with the sewing machine), has done a number of critical crafting performances and exhibitions as well as workshops with migrant youth and refugees (see <http://www.flachware.de/stephanie-mueller/>). Photo by scissabob.de.



"It is about making projects without the precondition of a professional education into an open field of experimentation for myself and the audience and to use my voice to indicate dedicated commitment for oneself and the needs of others."

Stephanie Müller (*rag*treasure*, Germany)

DIY feminism towards social change

“DIY feminism is about everyone doing feminism ourselves and making changes, however small they may seem at first sight. It means not waiting for others, for “professionals” or politicians, to make the world more women-friendly and to solve problems related to sexism.”

Nina Nijsten (Belgium)

“DIY feminism disrupts complacent beliefs that feminism and social change are no longer on the agenda of young people.”

Red Chidgey (UK)



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ZINE FEST GENT 2011

ZATERDAG 15 OKTOBER ZONDAG 16 OKTOBER

VANAF 10: WORKSHOPS OVER:
-ALTERNATIEVE MEDIA EN ZINES
-POSTERS, MYPKEN
-FICTIE EN ARTIKELS SCHRIJVEN

VANAF 10: MAAK JE EIGEN ZINE!
DOK: SPLITSING AFFKALAAN EN
KOOPIVAARDIGHEID
GENT (BELGIUM)



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Drawings, posters and zine fest flyer by Nina Nijsten
(Belgium, <http://drawingsbynina.wordpress.com>)