Academy of Design and Crafts Mattias Gunnarsson Zine / publication catalogue 2016 2016 - 12 - 19

Zine / publication catalogue 2016

My collected publications for 2016. Some of them are collaborations, others only mine. They are in various printing techniques, on different paper, various in both content and edition size but they all contain my drawings in one way or another.

The book as format has been with me for the last twenty years, both as part of my artistic work and as place for documentation. I have been taking notes, sketched, doodled, drawn, reflected, edited and collected in various books and at the same time I have made or self published books, zines and other publications.

Mainly it is about the act of drawing. Drawing is my creative backbone, where I find new directions and where I reflect visually despite what other projects, commissions or situations I am in. It is visual notes where I re-group, search, digest and narrate my context. It is ongoing work without a clear goal, where the act of drawing, the line moving across the paper, is central.

To keep it going and not loose momentum I keep a blog (visual notes) where I add one image a day to the flow of drawings. The result is a stream of images, that changes everyday, creating temporary possible narratives that emerges and gets replaced by others. I make very few choices on the order of the drawings, I post them alphabetically from descriptive titles (hair smoke woods, blood hands boxes). It is mostly after this work that I start working with the publications. For this I make choices, sometimes thematically from a specific place (*Berlin, Samos #2+3*), in collaboration with others (*MASU #12, 14-16*) or from images I believe work together (*Let the battle come to us #5*). Every six months I also make a collage zine from the last 6 months work where elements of drawings and different work get new context (*Extra Allt #8*).

I only make small editions of 15-35 copies.

The actual zine production is a way for me to collect my drawings and make new readings possible thru more conscious choices. Neither visual notes nor my publications have one clear story-line, but rather a stream of parallel, inter-relating and repeating narratives with multiple pasts and futures, simultaneous nows and endless endings and beginnings.

The packaging of the publications, with a clearer order, choice of paper, format, binding etc gives the images new potential content and context. It all becomes a part of the motion from sketchbook or paper, via blog stream, to a readable format.

The publication is also an exhibition format in itself. It is easily transported and is less dependent of time and place than the more traditional gallery show. Thru this my publications serve two purposes, both as platform for a more active decision making for a potential locally defined narrative and a more flexible meeting with a viewer. In my work with zines the trading is also an important part of the distribution to readers. I have a growing network of traders over the world that I have met over various digital platforms. Last year I also started a digital space for trading of zines and publications: zinetraders.

2016 has been a year where I have engaged more in self-publishing both as a practice and idea and I have been trading zines more actively with people all over the world. In many cases I have worked in a collecting and assembling way for this production, working with drawings, texts and photos that were not made for a specific purpose. My aim is to try a more "site-specific" approach for my coming projects and try to work towards a publication with the content made for that particular zine.

