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## **ZINES SERVE AS PLATFORM FOR EXPERIMENTATION & UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES**

**“Copy Culture” on View at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft  
October 2, 2021 – January 8, 2022**

### **Copy Culture: Zines Made and Shared**

**October 2, 2021 – January 8, 2022**

Front Gallery

Houston Center for Contemporary Craft

4848 Main Street, Houston, TX 77002

### **Hours & Admission**

Current hours: Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Visitors must wear masks and practice social distancing. Visit [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org) for the latest information.

**(HOUSTON, TX) July 14, 2021** – Houston Center for Contemporary Craft is pleased to present *Copy Culture: Zines Made and Shared*, a celebration of the history, practice, and community of self-described "zinesters." *Zines*, which are small circulation booklets created and distributed by individuals or small groups, are set apart from mainstream publishing by a lack of formal barriers to participation. For decades, zines have brought together and created space for marginalized, underrepresented, and dissident voices to share knowledge and find community. *Copy Culture* features zines and ephemera from Texas and beyond, inviting visitors to learn more by doing it themselves.

Born in the age of “snail mail,” zines now enjoy wide popularity and distribution online. Nevertheless, many zinesters still cite zine festivals as the best outlet for community, commerce, and connection. The co-founders of San Anto Zine Fest, Natasha I. Hernandez and Isabel Ann Castro, also produced the long-running submission-based zine, *St. Sucia*, which captured the complicated, beautiful reality of what 21st-century Latinx identity looks like through the eyes of its community of devoted fans, known as *sucias*. They write, “We are a space for *gente* who identify as *mujer*, in any way they choose to.”

While the most recognizable graphic style associated with zines is tied to the use of collage and reappropriated content by movements like Fluxus and the Situationist International, zines today encompass a vast spectrum of styles and content. From the cinematic nickelodeon zines of Dallas-based Andy Hirsch to the lush climate-change-inspired comics drawn by Sarah Welch and printed by James Beard, of Houston-based Mystic Multiples, the fundamentals of zine-making provide a nearly limitless platform from which to explore and experiment.

Innumerable knowledge- and skill-sharing zines have created a vast repository of knowledge built by diverse voices across the globe, building solidarity by democratizing access to information and archiving the voices of

historically underrepresented groups. In that tradition, Emily Halbardier and Erik Sultzer, of Houston-based The Center for Imaginative Cartography and Research, share knowledge about processes like fermentation, and New York-based Liza Stark merges technology with the zine's simple paper format to create a how-to manual for circuitry that lights up.

Perpetually hailed as being "back" and in vogue once again, zines have been a consistent outlet for a variety of communities, from sci-fi enthusiasts to LGBTQ+ writers and artists, since long before the term *zine* was coined in 1940. Curatorial Fellow María-Elisa Heg comments, "One of the most easily accessible and enduring forms of making, self-publishing is as old as printing itself. Yet, zines remain contemporary, as each rediscovery of this versatile medium brings new ideas, new voices, and new connections to history."

As part of its exhibition programming, HCCC will invite the public to watch zine-making demonstrations and make their own zines using simple materials and techniques.

*Copy Culture: Zines Made and Shared* is curated by HCCC Curatorial Fellow María-Elisa Heg.

### **About Houston Center for Contemporary Craft**

Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) is a nonprofit visual arts center dedicated to advancing education about the process, product, and history of craft. HCCC continues to serve as a treasured resource in the Houston arts community and the region by showcasing emerging and acclaimed artists in exhibitions, introducing visitors of all ages to contemporary craft through hands-on and virtual programming, and supporting the development of working artists through its artist residency program.

HCCC is currently open limited hours: Thursday through Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission is free. Before visiting, the public should visit [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org) to view visitor guidelines, including the requirement to wear face masks and practice social distancing throughout the building. HCCC is located in the Museum District at 4848 Main Street, three blocks south of the Wheeler Ave. MetroRail station. Free parking is available directly behind the facility, off Rosedale and Travis Street.

HCCC is supported by individual donors and members and funded in part by The Brown Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; Texas Commission on the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts, the Kinder Foundation; the Morgan Foundation; Windgate Charitable Foundation; and the Wortham Foundation. HCCC is a member of the Houston Museum District and the Midtown Arts District.

For more information, call 713-529-4848 or visit [www.crafthouston.org](http://www.crafthouston.org). Find HCCC on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @CraftHouston.

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