

Zines 101

Learn how to make your own from local zinesters.

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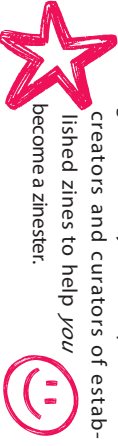
*Images courtesy of Adobe Stock

1 INTRODUCTION

What do deer carcasses and 1990s politics have in common? They've both been the subject of a Columbia-produced zine.

Zines (pronounced ZEENS) are self-published mini-magazines that can be about basically anything. Milo Miller, co-founder of the Queer Zine Archive Project, says zines are vehicles for storytelling, education, community building and outreach.

If you want to start a new hobby, connect with your community or share a story you've been meaning to tell, this guide is for you. *Lox* spoke with creators and curators of established zines to help *you* become a zinester.



fold so cover is at front, and DONE



pop out middle

you want a slit in the middle



fold again, and again into 8 rectangles



7 FOLDING

(Make this page into a zine)

fold hotdog style



cut at arrow



fold



2 HISTORY

Zines are used in various ways but historically appear within marginalized communities as a form of creative resistance. "The resistance is to structures that impose hardship when there are other ways of doing it," Miller says. "And how do we write about that? How do we communicate that?" According to the Library of Virginia:

✕ 1900-1930 Little magazines are published by Harlem Renaissance creatives.

✕ 1930-1970 Sci-fi and other genre enthusiasts create fanzines about their favorite works.

✕ 1970-1990 The punk sub-culture and gay liberation movement adopt zines.

✕ 1990-present Riot grrrls publish feminist zines. E-zines emerge online.

6 DISTRIBUTION

Miller recommends several methods of distribution.



LOCAL SHOPS



SNAIL MAIL

.PDF SALES



DIGITAL STORES (LIKE ETSY)



The best way to establish a community, Miller says, is to include your contact information in your zine so people can reach you with pitches, comments or orders.

3 BRAINSTORMING

Miller says zines are a tool that can be used in many ways. Here's some advice from local zinesters about how to get started and find your zines' angle.

"Pick something that you're super passionate about, that you could write an entire essay about to begin with, and then the possibilities are limitless."

— Ever Cole, KCOU Zine

"Sometimes things need to be done, and you might be the one asked to do it."

— Boone Stigall, The Trouble with Normal

5 PRINTING



There is also a wide array of options for printing zines.

Cole says she uses the University of Missouri's Riso Room for her personal projects and for KCOU Zine. Stigall used to print issues of *The Trouble With Normal* at print shops on campus and around Columbia, but he has since switched to using his own printer. Stigall says other zinesters in the community will borrow friends' printers for their publications.



In addition, Columbia is home to print shops like Minuteman Press and Grindstone Digital Imaging. Stores like UPS, Walgreens and CVS also offer printing services.

Because zines today can be made digitally, physically or both, the sky's the limit on how they can be designed.

Stigall's designs have developed alongside technology. *The Trouble with Normal* began as a combination of digital typography and cut-and-paste visuals. Now, it's fully designed online.

Cole says she and her team at KCOU Zine will combine physical elements like handwritten text, illustrations and colors with digital elements put together in Adobe InDesign based on what each spread needs.

"And then our little baby was born — our zine baby was born," Cole says. "Just seeing people so enamored with the final product was really cool!"

4 DESIGN

