

Adam Ramejkis
& Laura Knight

ARLIS Conference 2021
22/07/21

In Response



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& Laura Knight

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In Response

A unit project brief
An exhibition

22 visual essays created by students
in response to the Victorian pamphlet
collection at Conway Hall

*Part of Victorian Blogging project,
funded by HLF*

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Collaboration

Photo by Anita Strasser

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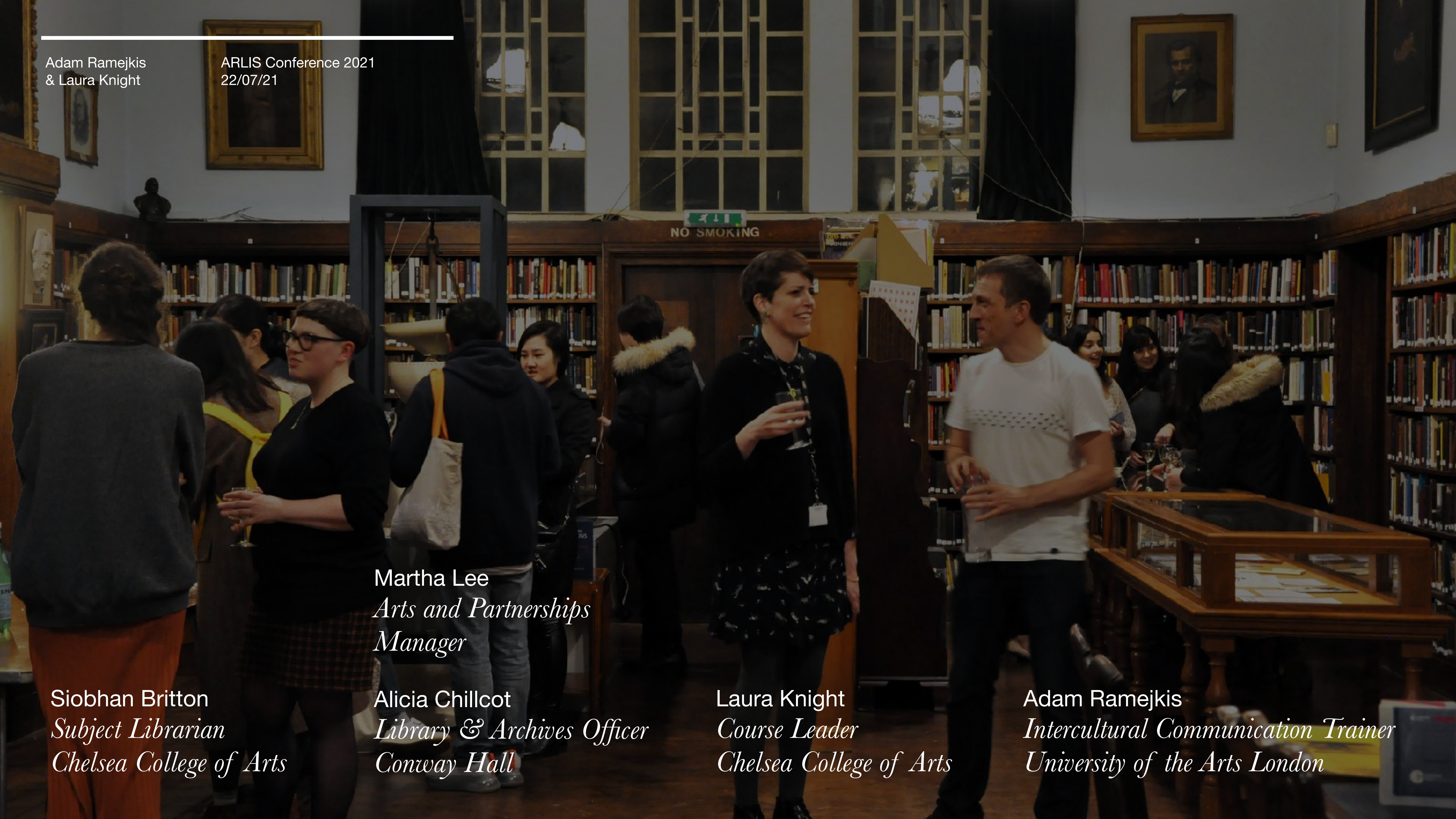
Martha Lee
*Arts and Partnerships
Manager*

Siobhan Britton
*Subject Librarian
Chelsea College of Arts*

Alicia Chillcot
*Library & Archives Officer
Conzway Hall*

Laura Knight
*Course Leader
Chelsea College of Arts*

Adam Ramejkis
*Intercultural Communication Trainer
University of the Arts London*



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Photo by Anita Strasser



Eiji

Nora

Sabrina

Han

Jessie

Nahmee

Hannah

Isabel

Snigdha

Physit

Qiqi

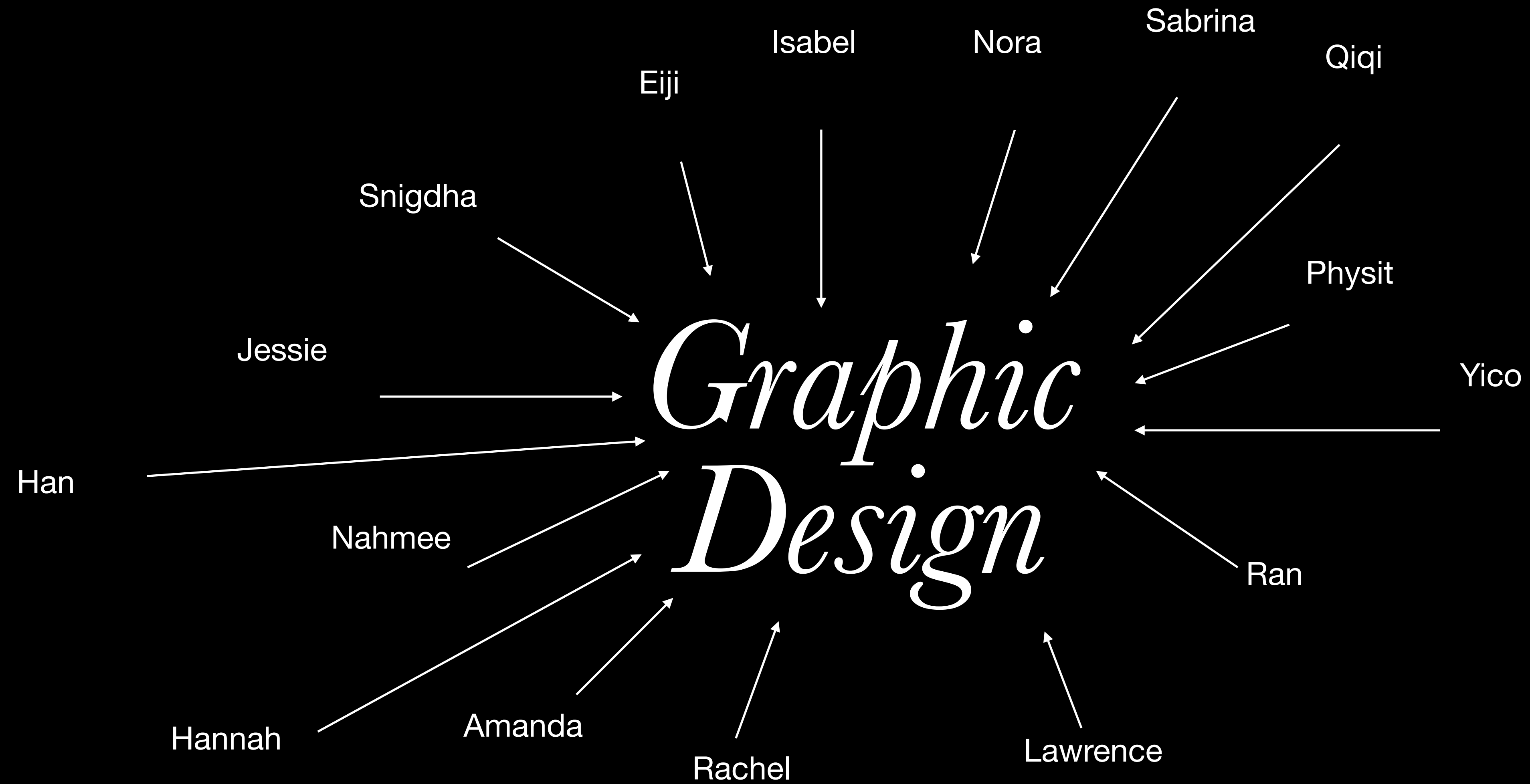
Yico

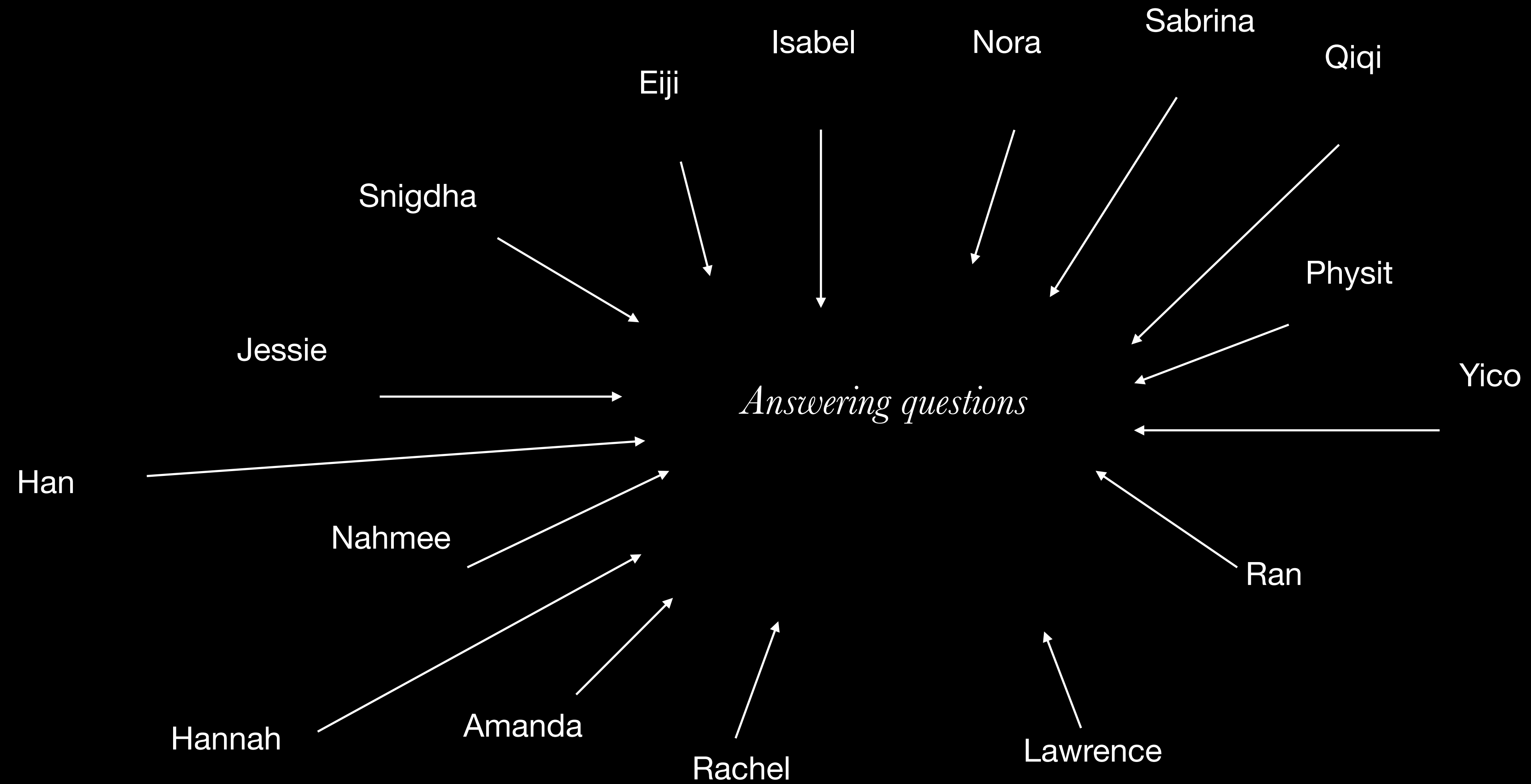
Ran

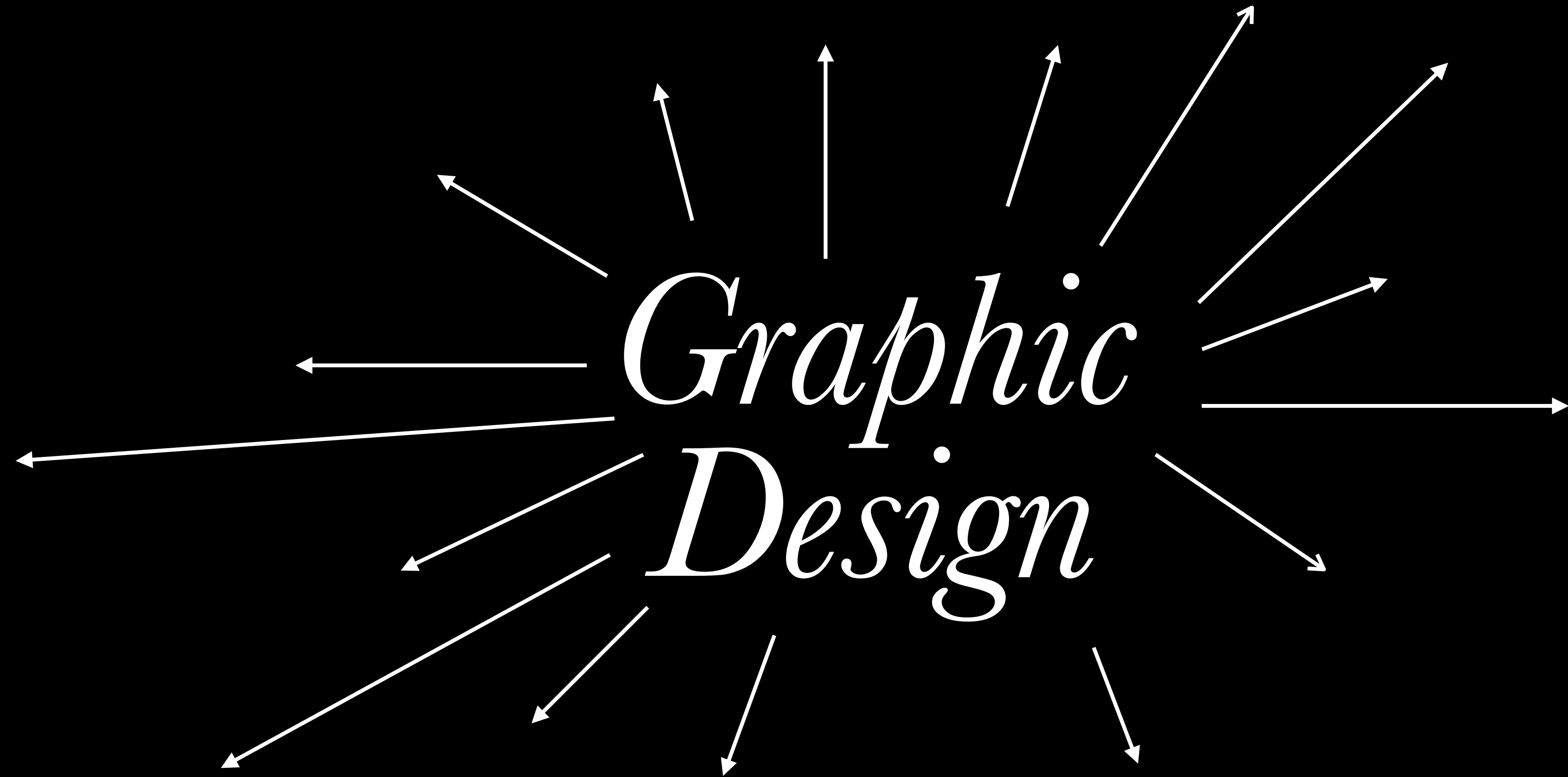
Amanda

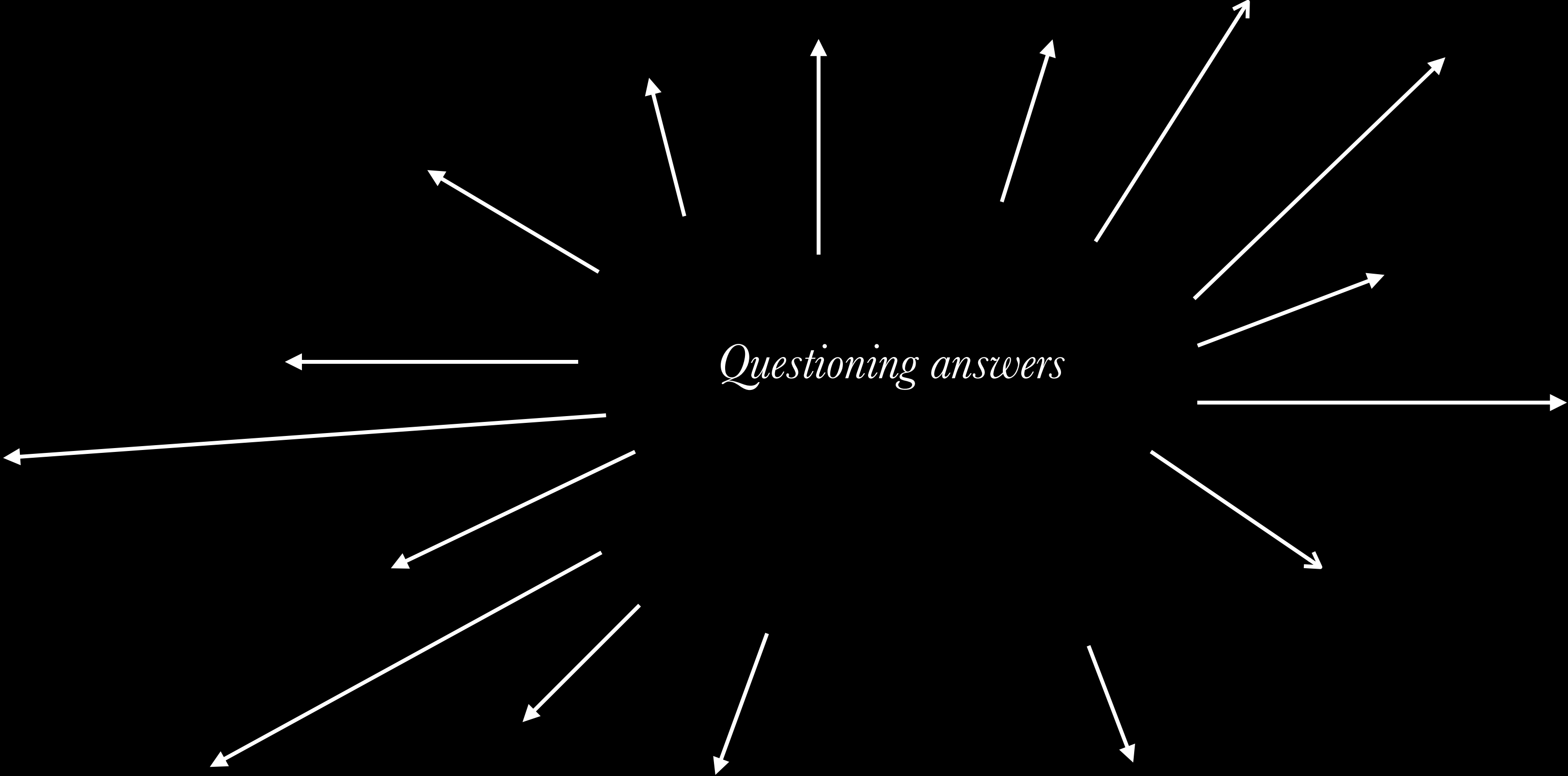
Rachel

Lawrence









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Workshops



*Learners can only truly learn to think critically
if they are able to challenge the problems within
power and knowledge structures in their education
environment, as well as the wider world*

Lauren Smith
Journal of Information Literacy

THE SOCIAL
CONTRACT &
DISCOURSE

BY JEAN-JACQUES
ROUSSEAU

LONDON & TORONTO
PUBLISHED BY J. M. DENT
& SONS LTD & IN NEW YORK
BY E. P. DUTTON & CO

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Cultural perspectives / Critical thinking

It made me reflect on how I had simply absorbed all concepts fed to me throughout my education as 'the truth'. I had no idea that my fellow students had a different vision and their perception of truth was different, that we have different laws and principles

Student
In response to the project

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Creative Library Research

Conway Hall Library
28th October 2020

Exploring serendipity in collections.
Considering curatedness of space,
knowledge and bias

Photo by Anita Strasser

It had never occurred to me before that curatorial spaces, such as libraries or archives, control the flow of information about a given topic. They can shape the way people perceive things, which makes them very powerful

Student

In response to the project

There is a well-established canon in Graphic Design, meaning that practitioners have been relying on the same literature, same biases, and the same people in the past. Design risks becoming repetitive, reflecting ideas and styles that are no longer relevant nor accurate

Student

In response to the project

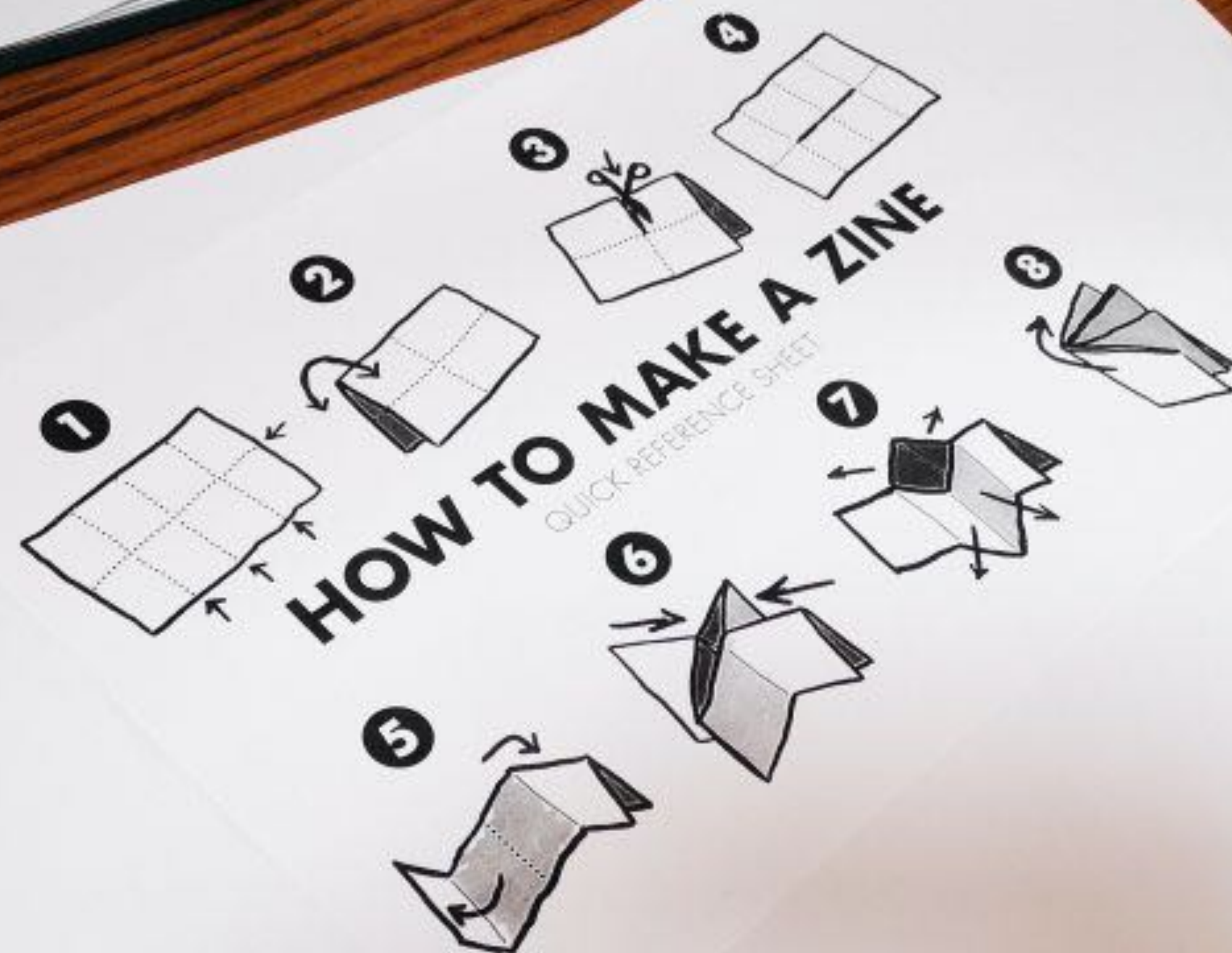
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Zine-ing

Conway Hall Library
11th November 2020

Exploring thinking through making
in response to pamphlets





Racial discrimination goes beyond colors
goes beyond colors

since it open the rift of the dark side of humanity

homosexual discrimination

school bullying

domestic violence

war

can all come from the superiority over another group
the superiority over another group

The impact of discrimination is like that of an atomic bomb
an atomic bomb



It is a completely different approach to creating something. It is almost like the brain goes into 'survival mode', and it is in that mode when we start discovering ideas that we did not know we had

Student
In response to the workshop



Mr.

The brief

Design a visual essay that
communicates a critical position

10-12 images

Up to 500 words

No more than 23cm x 22cm

Shelf size at Conway Hall

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In Response:

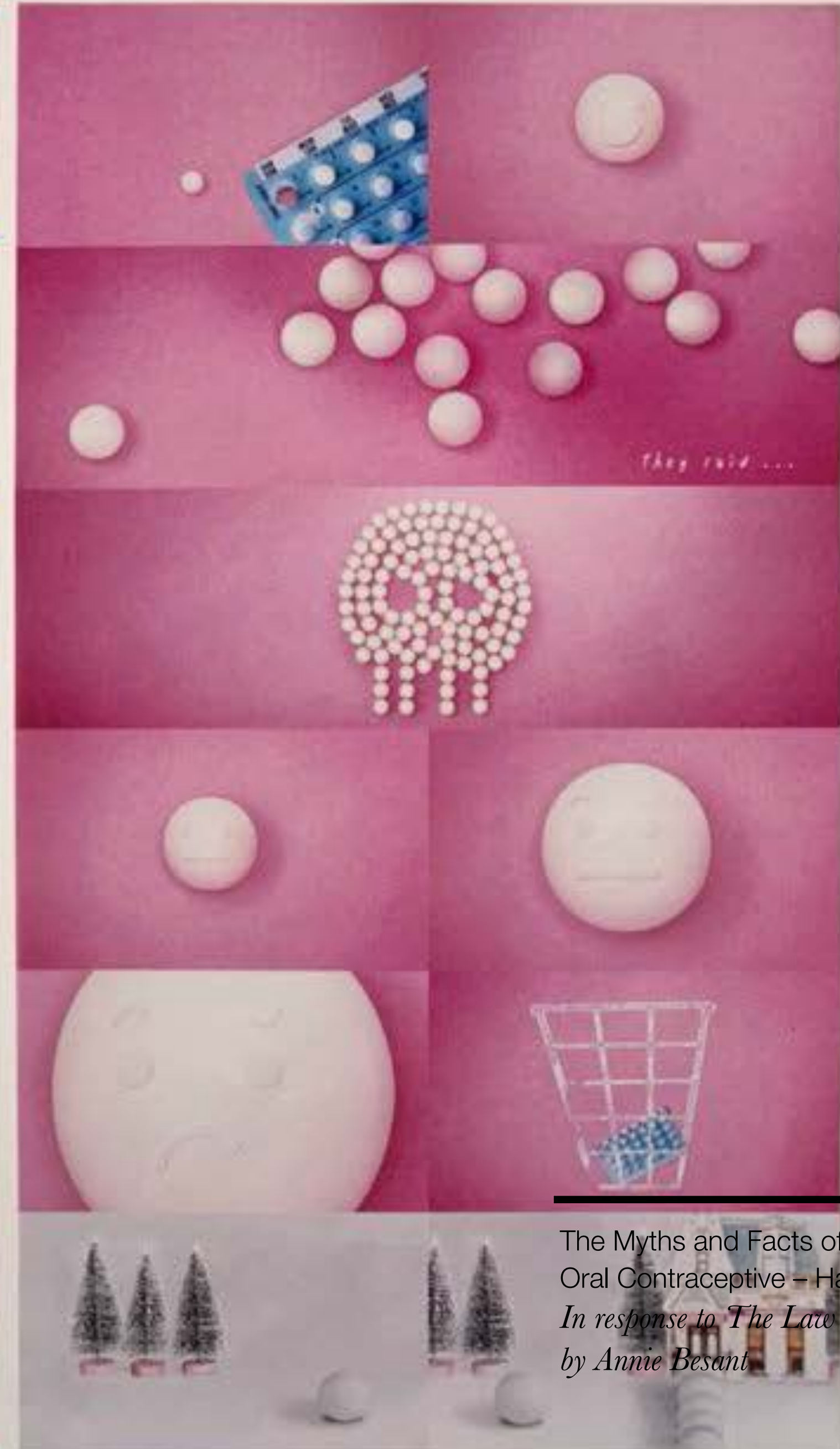
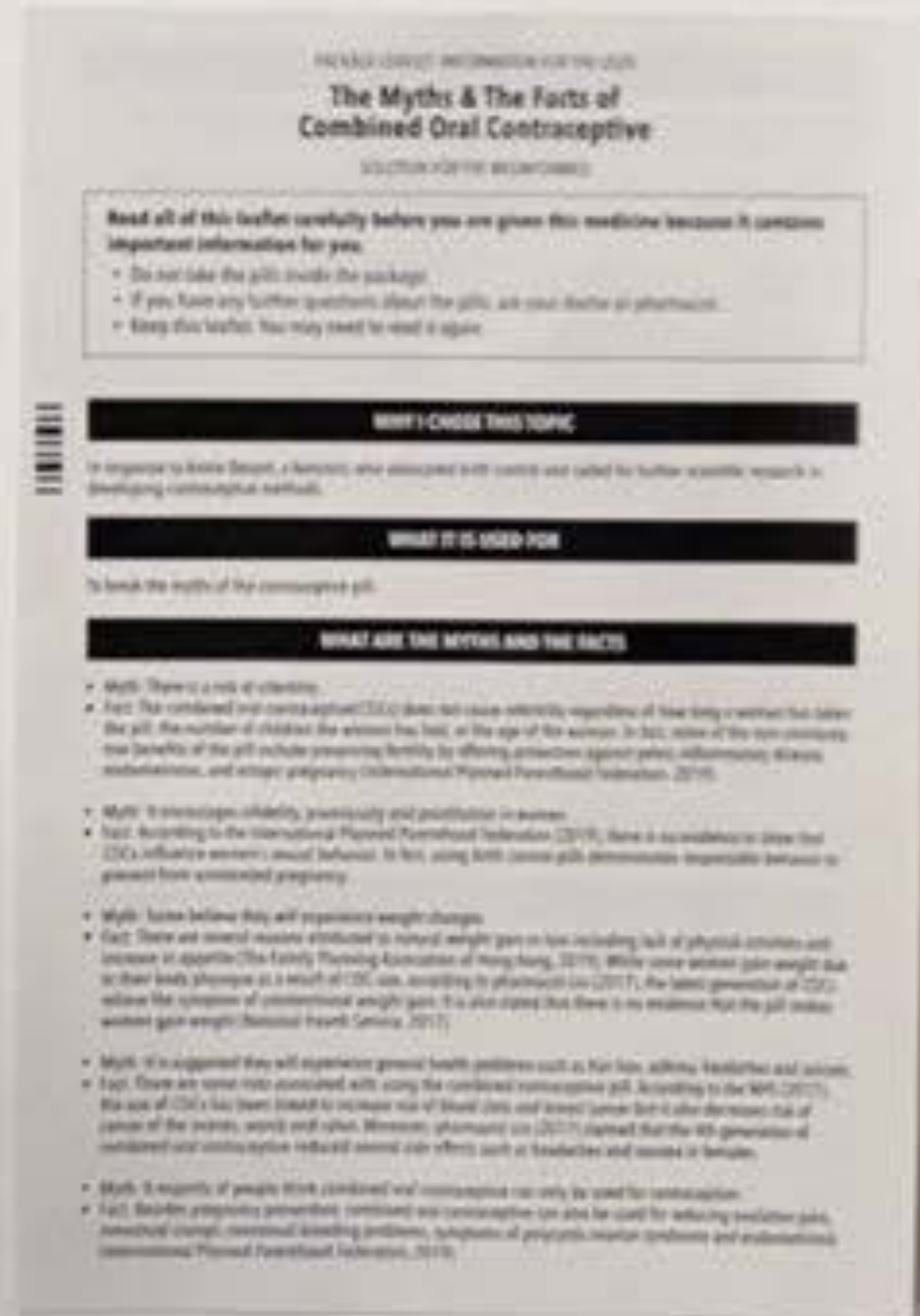
A Lecture on Woman's Rights *Isabel Brazão*
A Lecture on Woman's Rights *Laurence Collis*
A Man From the Moon *Haoran Wang*
A Man From the Moon *Ruoyang Sun*
A Man From the Moon *Namhee Kwon*
A Man From the Moon *Zihan Yuan*
An Appeal to the Young *Yi-Ling Hsiao*
Down Stream *Han Zhou*
Hour in a Library *Cheng Meng*
Negro's Place in Nature *Hao Lu*
On Vegetarianism *Jiachen Song*
Reform in Burial Rites *Peilin Huang*
Remarks on The Education of Deaf and Dumb
Snigdha Taparia
Statement of Mrs Lydia B Denny *Sabrina Brouwers*
Statement of Mrs Lydia B Denny *Sharanya Srikanth*
The Fruits of Philosophy *Anqi Wang*
The Fruits of Philosophy *Yiqiao Wang*
The Fruits of Philosophy *Jiachen Song*
The Fruits of Philosophy *Shihhan Huang*
The Law of Population *Hang Fang Tsai*
The Legalization of Female Slavery *Chi Ma*
The Political Status of Women *Elenora Scardanzan*



The Myths and Facts of Combined
Oral Contraceptive – Hang Fang Tsai
*In response to *The Law of Population*
by Annie Besant*



The Myths and Facts of Combined Oral Contraceptive – Hang Fang Tsai
In response to The Law of Population
by Annie Besant



The Myths and Facts of Combined Oral Contraceptive – Hang Fang Tsai
In response to *The Law of Population* by Annie Besant

LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

The Myths & The Facts of Combined Oral Contraceptive

SOLUTION FOR THE MISINFORMED

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you are given this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Do not take the pills inside the package.
- If you have any further questions about the pills, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

In response to Annie Besant, a feminist, who advocated birth control and called for developing contraceptive methods.

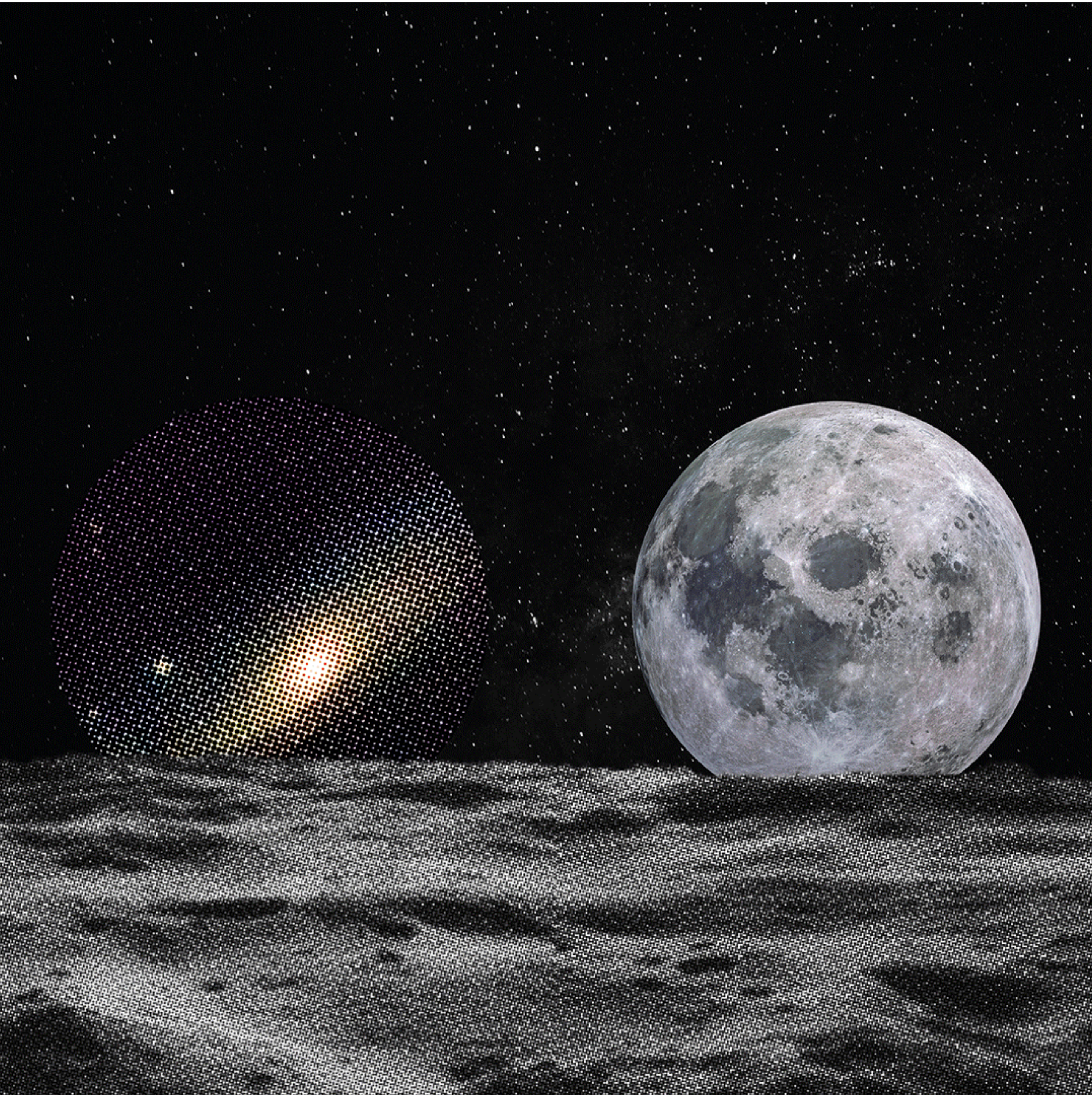
WHY I CHOSE THIS TOPIC

To break the myths of the contraceptive pill.

WHAT IT IS USED FOR

- ▶ Myth: There is a risk of i
- Fact: The combined contraceptive pill, the n
- ent

The Myths and Facts of Combined Oral Contraceptive – Hang Fang Tsai
In response to *The Law of Population* by Annie Besant





¥100

Contemporary money-grubbers work
desperately to meet the basic needs,
causing them to be lonely and busy.

Wallet of Moon Money – Ruoyang Sun
In response to Man from the Moon
1870, Unknown



Wallet of Moon Money – Ruoyang Sun
In response to Man from the Moon
1870, Unknown



Wallet of Moon Money – Ruoyang Sun
In response to Man from the Moon
1870, Unknown



"For a long time, there had been
growing up a large body who pitied
and despised the money-grubbers"
THE LUNAR ESCURSIONIST 1549-2050

¥100

Contemporary money-grubbers work
desperately to meet the basic needs,
causing them to be lonely and busy.

Wallet of Moon Money – Ruoyang Sun
In response to *Man from the Moon*
1870, Unknown



20

What is the significance of human existence when all human desires can be satisfied without human power?

BANK OF MOON

20

20

"One must have some employment... I never yet knew anyone, either on your planet or ours, to whom that wasn't the principal employment."

THE LUNAR ESCURSIONIST 1549-2050

BANK OF MOON

20

20

BANK OF MOON

20

Wallet of Moon Money – Ruoyang Sun
In response to *Man from the Moon*
1870, *Unknown*



The Flower of Philosophy – Anqi Wang
In response to Fruits of Philosophy
by Charles Knowlton, 1832



The Flower of Philosophy – Anqi Wang
In response to Fruits of Philosophy
by Charles Knowlton, 1832

Fruits of Philosophy



Amanda Huang

Fruits of Philosophy – Amanda Huang
In response to Fruits of Philosophy
by Charles Knowlton, 1832



Desire is Endless – Jiachen Song
In response to On Vegetarianism
by Francis William Newman, 1904



Desire is Endless – Jiachen Song
In response to On Vegetarianism
by Francis William Newman, 1904

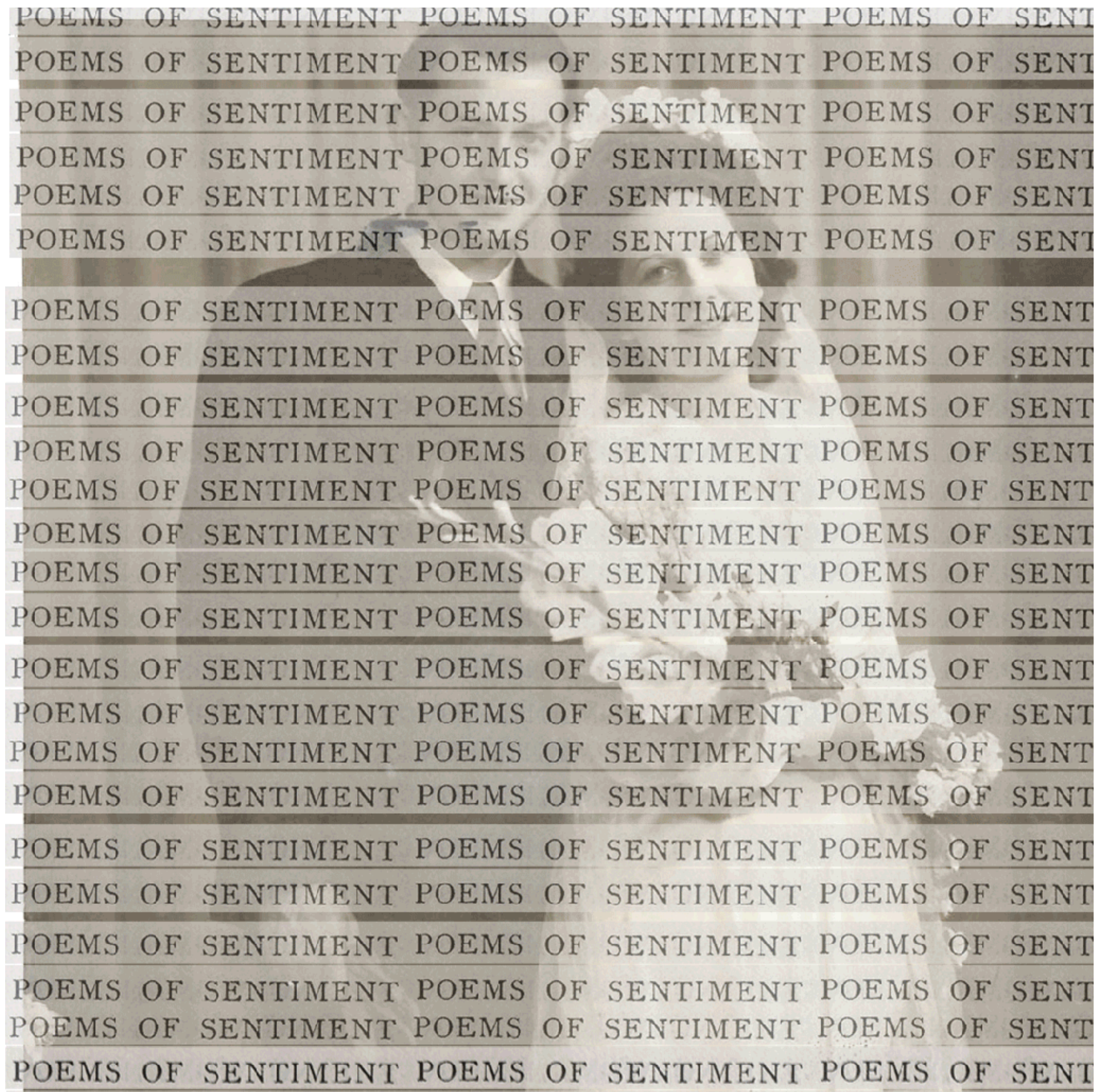
POEMS OF SENTIMENT



ELLA WHEELER WILCOX



Poems of Sentiment
– Sabrina Brouwers
*In response to Statement
of Mrs Lydia B Denny
by Mrs Lydia B Denny, 1863*



Poems of Sentiment
– Sabrina Brouwers
*In response to Statement
of Mrs Lydia B Denny
by Mrs Lydia B Denny, 1863*



The White Book – Hao Lu
In response to Negro's Place in Nature,
James Hunt, 1863

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Exhibition

In Response

22 Graphic Design students from Chelsea
College of Arts respond to the Victorian
Pamphlet Collection at Conway Hall

Until 11th March
10am—4pm
Tuesday—Thursday

Conway Hall Library
20 Red Lion Square
London
WC1R 4AB

conwayhall.org.uk

[@conwayhall](#)
[#victorianhugging](#)

Photo by Anita Strasser

Exhibition

Conway Hall Library
30th January - 31st March 2020

Essays were classified using the
Dewey system and placed back
into the Conway Hall collection

613.94 ZHU

A response to:
Fruits of Philosophy
Charles Knowlton
(1877)

320
BEN

GEORGE
ALLEN
AND

320
BLA

Photo by Anita Strasser

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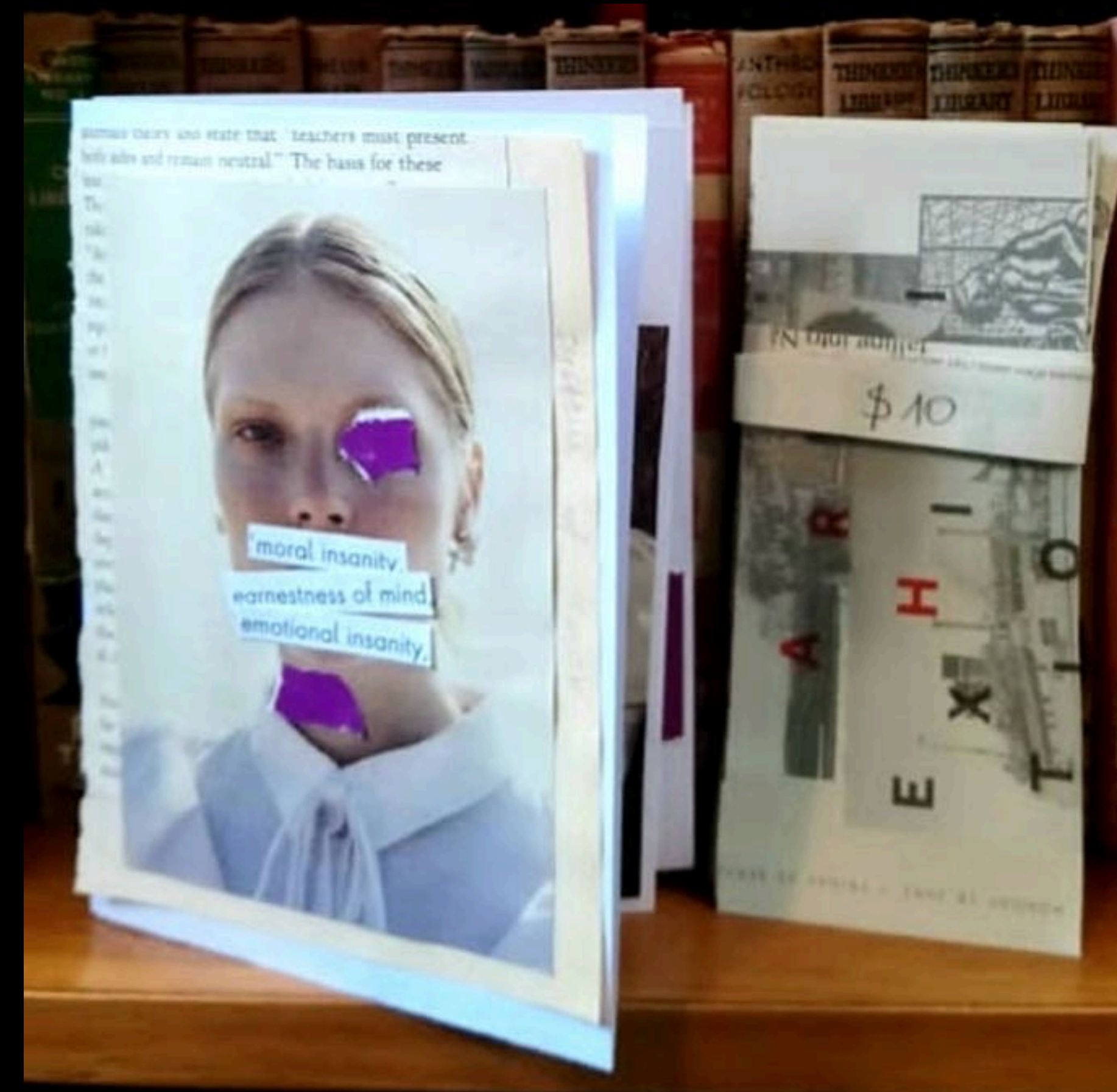
Exhibition

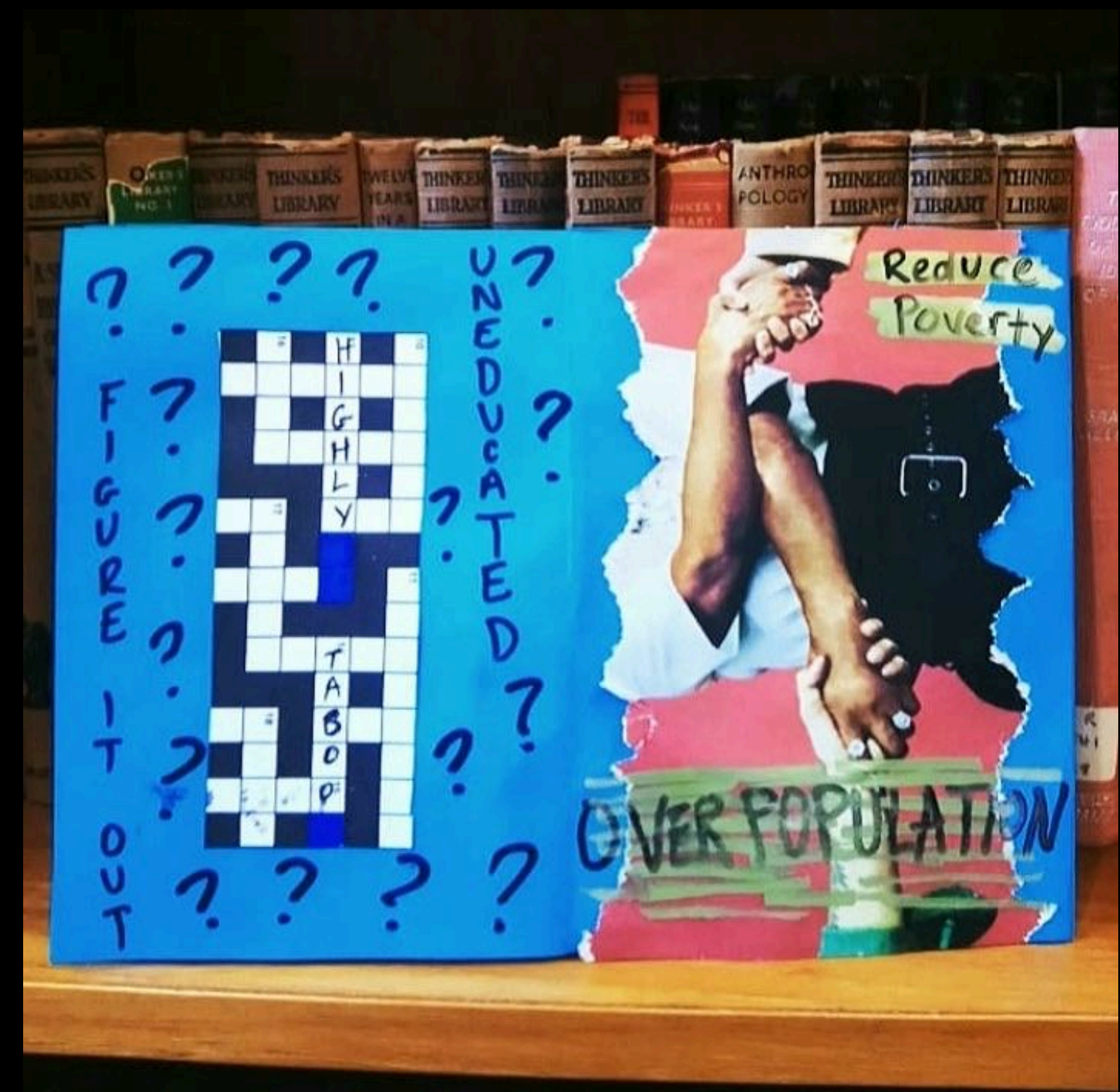
Essays were viewed in the context of other books dealing with the same topic, allowing visitors to experience the range of titles and subjects in the Conway Hall Library collection

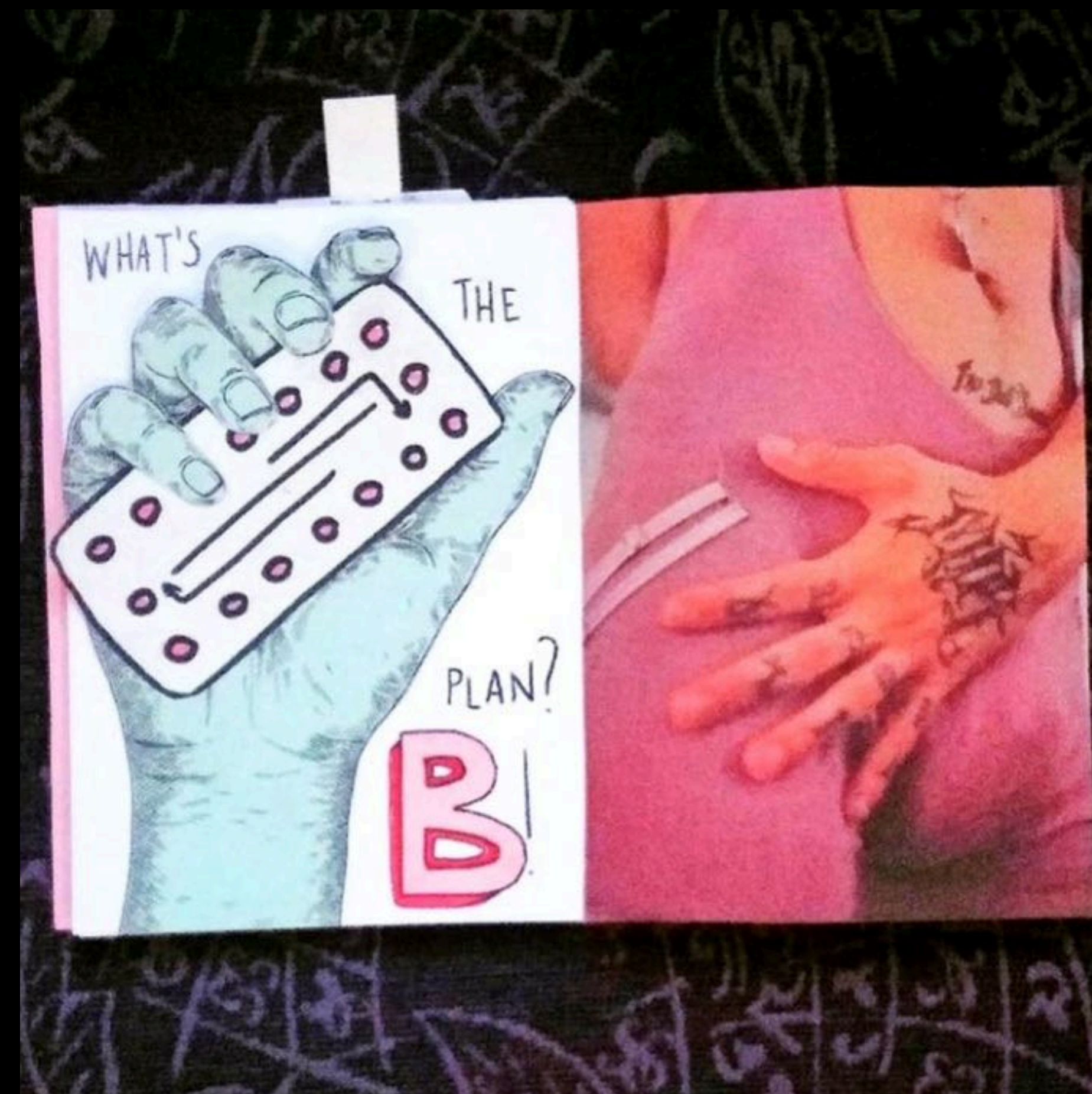
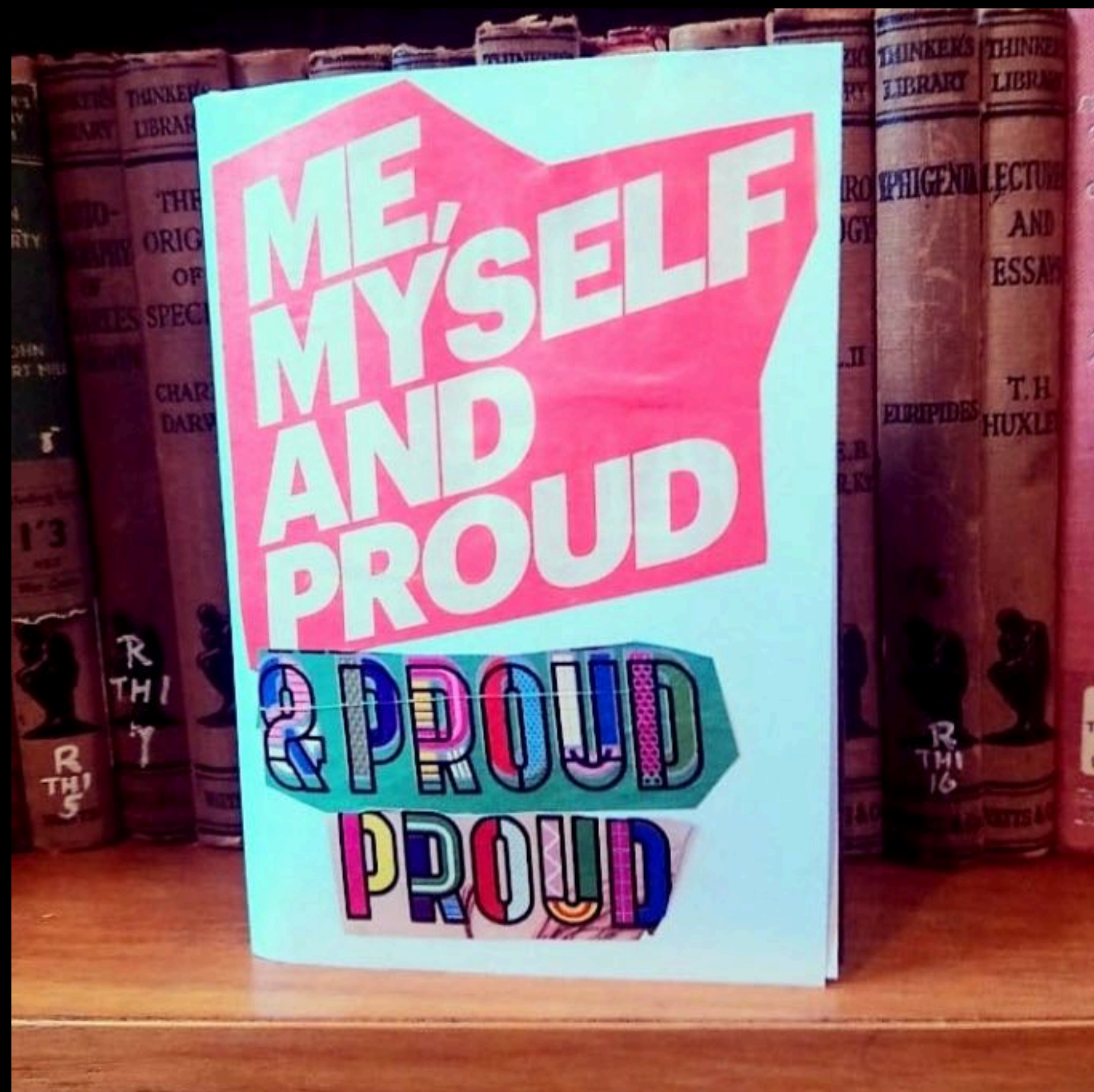
Photo by Anita Strasser

In Response

The interesting ways that the
theme of *In Response* continued









VICTORIAN BLOGGING

In Response

Laura Knight and Adam Ramejkis

It's often difficult to pinpoint exactly when something starts, or at what point an idea has enough form to be recognised as a project. *In Response* is such a project.

The 'In Response' exhibition, which features 22 visual essays from students on the Graduate Diploma Graphic Design course at Chelsea College of Arts, opened on 30th January in Conway Hall Library and will be on display until 31st March 2020. Each essay is a personal critical response to the issues and ideas of different Victorian pamphlets held in Conway Hall's library collection. Individually, the essays cover issues such as feminism, racism, disability, futurism, vegetarianism and speculation, each representing a visual conversation between the present and the past. As a collection, they represent collaboration *in response* to many different challenges and opportunities.

We had collaborated on the Graduate Diploma in the previous academic year. The course is fairly unique in the way that it brings students from multiple disciplinary and cultural backgrounds together to study Graphic Design, often for the first time. It's an interesting opportunity to push at the edges of what Graphic Design is and could be, and to embrace the value of different perspectives.

Graphic Design is often defined and understood as working *in response* to commercial needs, what graphic designers do is invariably understood by what they produce and these objects and artefacts are often created *in response* to the needs of clients. This is an understanding we constantly seek to challenge in our students, particularly at postgraduate level – to engage with ideas and thinking beyond the abstract references of the traditional art and design canon and beyond the category of commercial.

Adam had worked with the Graduate Diploma course previously in his role as an Intercultural Communication Trainer. Many of these sessions had provided specific time and space to consider the value of difference in cultural perspectives and different approaches to critical thinking. It is an unfortunate reality that UK Higher Education is often uncritical in the way it defines such

ideas. Students can find themselves stranded in the gap between their own cultural understandings and the institution's opaque definitions. The way that critical thinking is addressed can often make students feel that some ways of thinking and knowing are more valid than others. Students from the last academic year had been vocal about how much they valued the space the course made to explore these ideas and how it had helped them to find their own voice. *In response* to changes in the design of the course, we recognised the opportunity for these approaches and ideas to become more embedded. This is where the idea for a co-designed and co-delivered project came into being.

After further discussion, we realised that this project would enable us to work more closely with Siobhan Britton, Graphic Design Subject Librarian at Chelsea. Siobhan collaborated with us on a number of the workshops and in weekly tutorials on the project, bringing her knowledge of libraries and collections but also her experience as a zine-maker and illustrator. Her contribution and expertise was invaluable to the process.

The project also built on an existing collaboration between Adam and Conway Hall, which started back in 2016. After discovering the library and engaging in discussions with Sophie Hawkey Edwards (Library and Learning Manager at the time), I recognised the potential of exploring the curatedness of libraries and archives to question systems of knowledge. *In response*, he developed facilitated discussions and series of workshops and events around thinking and language, in relation to the multitude of ideas and ideas represented in the library collection and championed by Conway Hall Ethical Society.

At the end of 2017, Conway Hall received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund to run Victorian Blogging – a project that aimed to explore the parallels between the format and purpose of 19th Century pamphlets and 21st Century blogs (and zines). In order to make the collection more accessible, Conway Hall began to digitise their archive of 19th Century pamphlets. Adam was invited to assist Sophie and Alicia Chilcote (then Digitisation Coordinator) in designing and delivering learning activities, and in cataloguing the digitised pamphlets.

Knight, Laura and Ramejkis, Adam (2020) In Response. The Ethical Record, 125 (2), pp. 12-16.

In order to learn from a tradition, one has to be able to push against it, and not be bowed by a surfeit of reverence. The point is not to replicate the conclusions of a tradition, but rather to enter into the same problems as the ancients and make them one's own

Matthew Crawford
The World Beyond your Head

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