

Zine workshop by Renuka Rajiv



About the artist- Renuka Rajiv is an artist based in bangalore. They did their diploma in digital video production from Srishti school of design, bangalore, india (2007) and bachelor of fine art, printmaking from VCA, melbourne(2010)

They have participated in several group shows in melbourne, kochi, new delhi and bangalore. Their solo exhibitions include **life as a solo, handheld gallery**, melbourne(2013), **wild fermentation, brunswick artspace**, melbourne (2013), **static/problematic, G159**, bangalore (2015). Some of their most recent works include an exhibition on **the future is not my gender**.

On October 21st, 2023, Renuka conducted a zine making workshop in Mount Carmel College for first year BA Communicative English and Psychology students which stretched from 10am to 6pm in the evening.

The workshop explored the ethos and themes of a zine, which is a self published work of appropriated texts and images, usually reproduced using a photocopier, following the “do it yourself” or the “DIY” philosophy.

The heart of a zine is rooted in the interaction between the zine, zinester and the viewer for whom it is being produced, studying and understanding the viewer's eye movement and psyche to ensure the final product is impactful and engaging, while also conveying the central idea around which it is pivoted. This is a task which Renuka beautifully manifests.

In the workshop, the students were exposed to the world of art, craft and DIY, something they had left behind in elementary grades and played around with randomly picked newspapers and magazines from Feminas, Men's world to Tinkle and vernacular books. Imagination overtook reality and the students pulled off many witty and idiosyncratic pieces, ranging from mental health to aliens and a round way trip to India; everything was meticulously exhibited and each piece spoke for itself.

The participants discussed and worked around the concept, while using examples of existing zines and digitally produced art, to traverse the whys and hows of making individuals, putting them together as a collective piece and self publishing.

The pages they had come up with in the span of just a few hours were put together to create a story, bound into a book. Each student got to take home a copy, as a keepsake of their collective imagination, creativity, talk and effort.