

CRAFT IN MIND - WEEK ONE

WHILE PREPARING CLAY FOR THE FIRST CRAFT IN MIND SESSION, LEAD ARTIST CARRIE REICHARDT SUMS UP HER AIMS FOR THE PROJECT



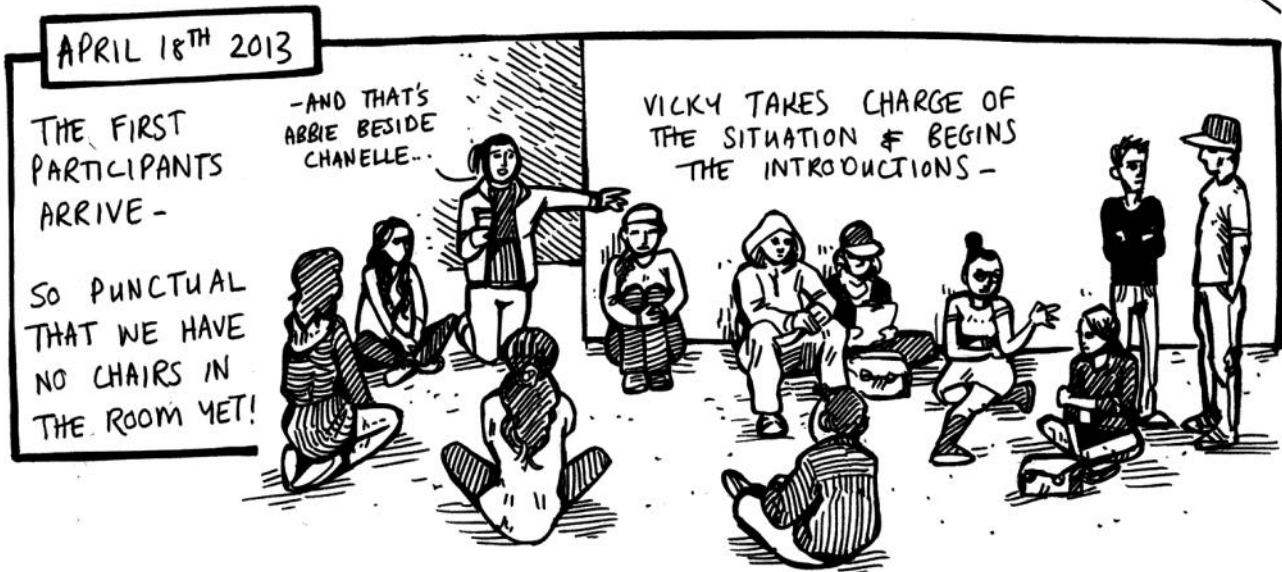
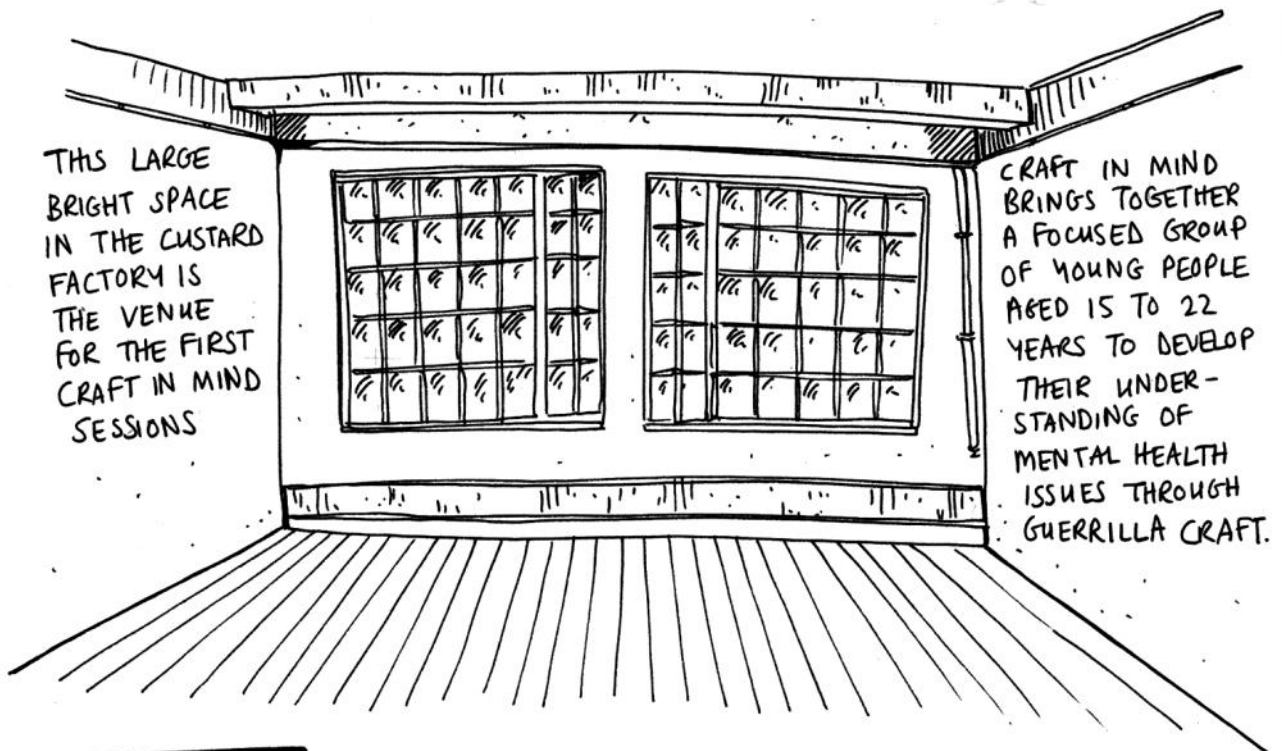
CARRIE IS A SELF-TITLED CRAFTIVIST. SHE WORKS BETWEEN CRAFT & ACTIVISM FROM A MOSAIC-COVERED STUDIO IN LONDON.

HER WORKS IN CERAMIC, MOSAIC AND SCREEN PRINTING ARE HIGHLY POLITICISED.

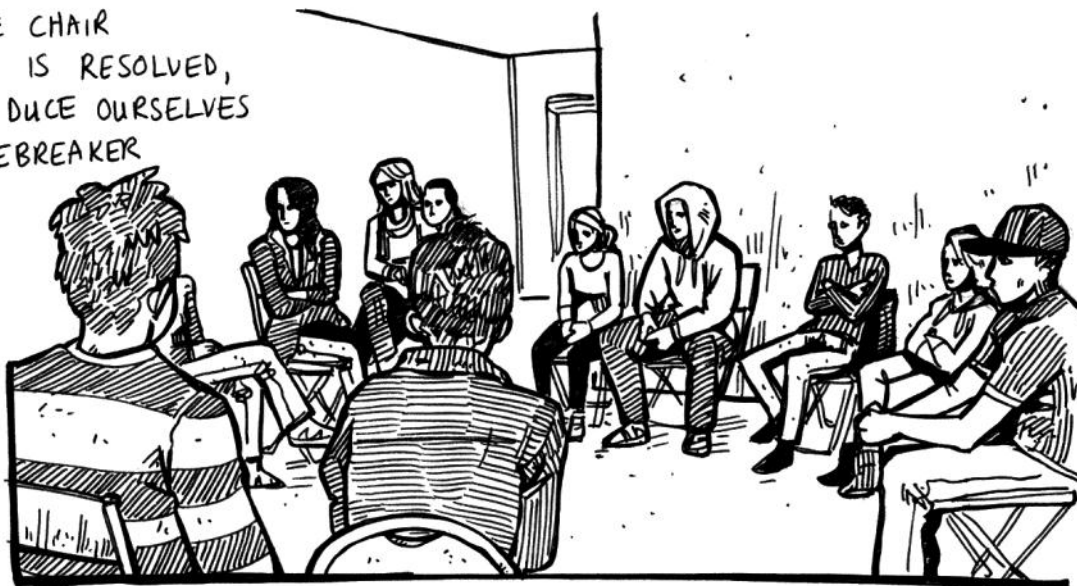
CRAFT IN MIND IS TAKING PLACE AT THE CUSTARD FACTORY IN BIRMINGHAM, HOME TO CRAFTSPACE



CRAFTSPACE IS A CRAFTS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION. THEY WORK TO PUSH BOUNDARIES AND PERCEPTIONS OF CRAFT PRACTICE, PRESENTATION AND LEARNING.



ONCE THE CHAIR
SITUATION IS RESOLVED,
WE INTRODUCE OURSELVES
AS AN ICEBREAKER



DEIRDRE BUCKLEY,
PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
OUTLINES FIRE
SAFETY PROCEDURES

SO IF YOU'RE
OUT AT THE BATHROOM
AND THE ALARM
GOES OFF, ALWAYS
COME BACK TO THE
ROOM FOR A HEAD
COUNT. THIS IS THE
MEETING POINT.

WHAT IF
THIS
ROOM IS
ON FIRE?



HA HA HA!



WITH THE FORMALITIES
OVER, CARRIE BEGAN
WITH A TALK ON
CRAFTIVISM

CRAFTIVISM IS
CRAFT WITH ACTIVISM

OFTEN IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF THE
WORK DOESN'T
LAST. YOU
CAN TAKE A
PHOTO TO
DOCUMENT IT.





THE CRAFTIVIST COLLECTIVE* IS AN ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO CRAFTIVISM

* www.craftivist-collective.com

CARRIE IS INVOLVED IN THEIR ACTIVITIES -

CRAFTIVISM CAN BE ANYWHERE -

I'VE SPENT THE LAST TEN YEARS MOSAICING MY OWN HOUSE



WITH ALL THESE EXAMPLES AND TECHNIQUES, WE ARE SUBVERTING OBJECTS, USING THE VISUAL LANGUAGE OF WHAT'S THERE

LIKE THIS EXAMPLE CARRIE SHOWED TO US -



← ACTUAL STREET SIGN

← PAINTED FAKE SHADOW

THIS WAS A LOT TO TAKE IN -



SO CARRIE MOVED
TO DEMONSTRATING
SOME TECHNIQUES

SHE ROLLED
OUT CLAY -



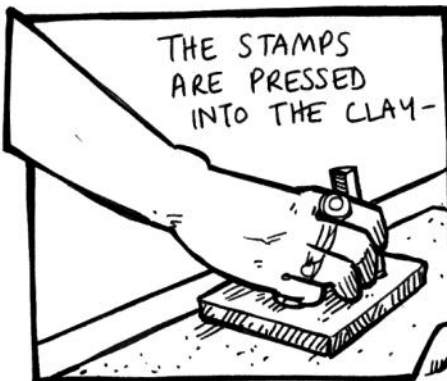
- AND CUT THE
EDGES TO MAKE
A SQUARE



WE HAVE THESE
STAMPS OF
LETTERS AND
SHAPES -



THE STAMPS
ARE PRESSED
INTO THE CLAY -



- MAKING A
TILE WITH
A SLOGAN



WHEN FIRED, THIS
CAN BE PLACED IN
A PUBLIC SITE,
MERGING WITH EXISTING
TILES OR BRICKWORK



CARRIE ALSO DEMONSTRATED
TWO TECHNIQUES FOR TRANSFERRING
IMAGES ON TO CLAY & CERAMICS

FOR THE FIRST-

TAKE YOUR DESIGN



AND PUT IT THROUGH
THE SPECIAL COPIER-
A CANON FC



-STOPPING IT
HALFWAY THROUGH
(BEFORE THE PRINT
IS FIXED TO THE
PAGE)

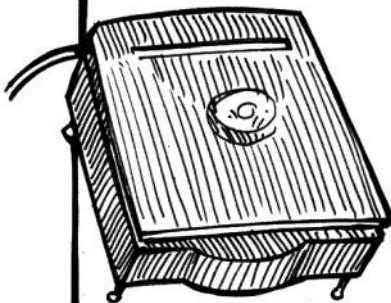


THE IMAGE IS
PRESSED ONTO
THE CLAY



WHEN THE PAPER
IS REMOVED, THE
IMAGE HAS
TRANSFERRED

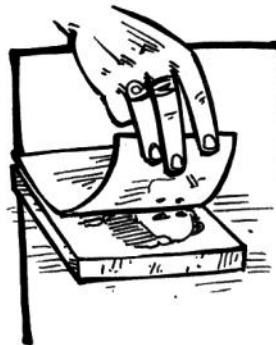
THE SECOND -
INVOLVES A SPECIAL
TRANSFER PAPER AND
A GLAZED CERAMIC TILE



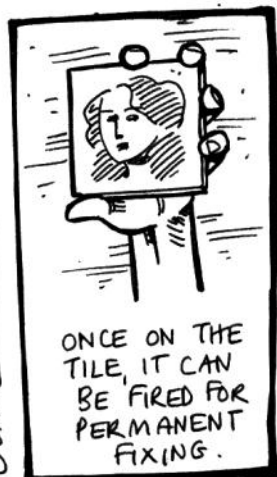
THE DESIGN IS
PHOTOCOPIED TO
THE TRANSFER PAPER



THIS IS IMMEDIATELY
PUT INTO A BOWL
OF WATER AND LEFT
FOR ONE MINUTE

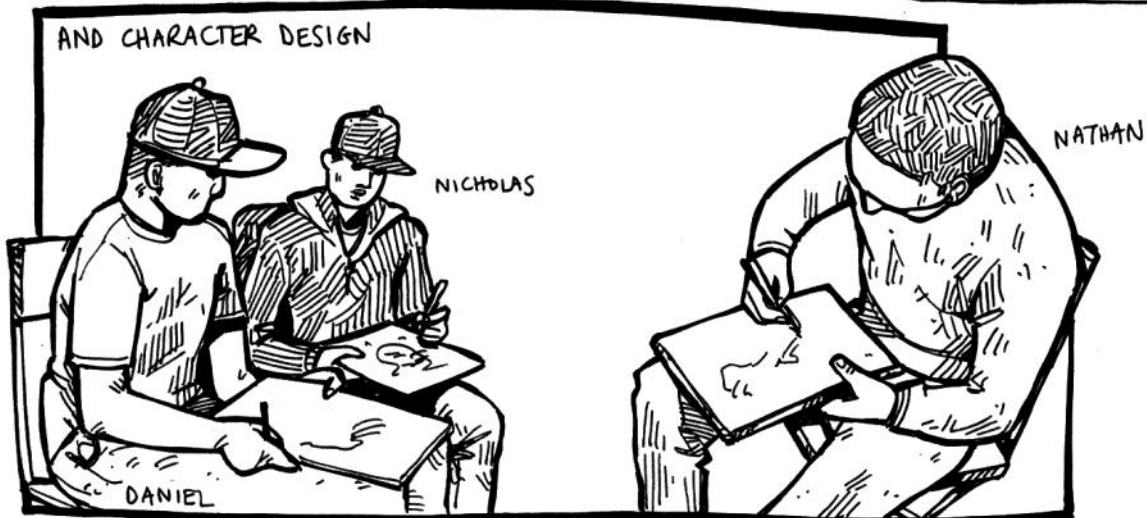


THE PAPER IS
THEN RUBBED
ONTO THE TILE
AND THE EXCESS
WATER REMOVED



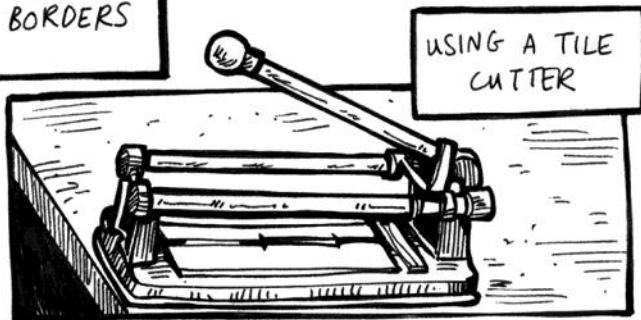
ONCE ON THE
TILE, IT CAN
BE FIRED FOR
PERMANENT
FIXING.

AFTER LUNCH, THE PARTICIPANTS
GET A CHANCE TO TRY OUT
SOME OF THE SKILLS—



CARRIE SHOWS HOW TO WORK WITH LARGER TILES & SMALL SECTIONS FOR BORDERS

HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER-

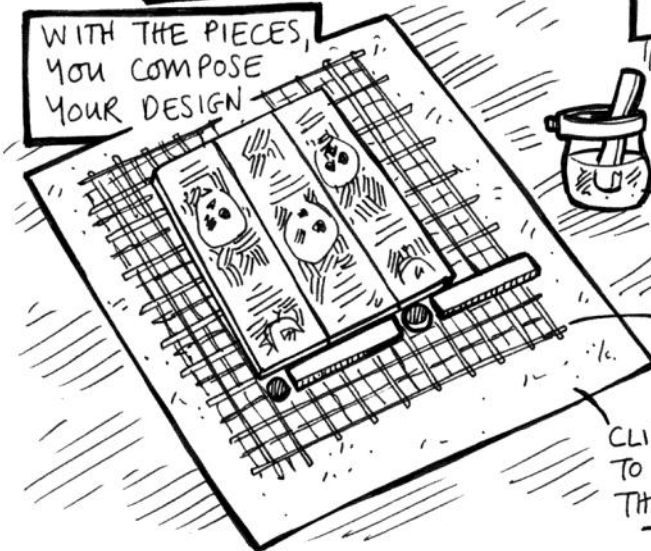


USING A TILE CUTTER



BE CAREFUL, JUST SCORE IT AND THEN PRESS IT DOWN TO BREAK IT CLEANLY

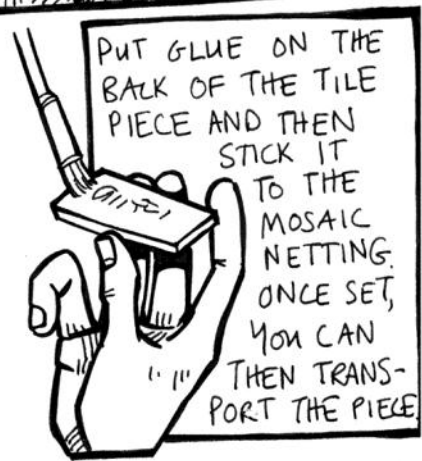
WITH THE PIECES, YOU COMPOSE YOUR DESIGN



PVA GLUE

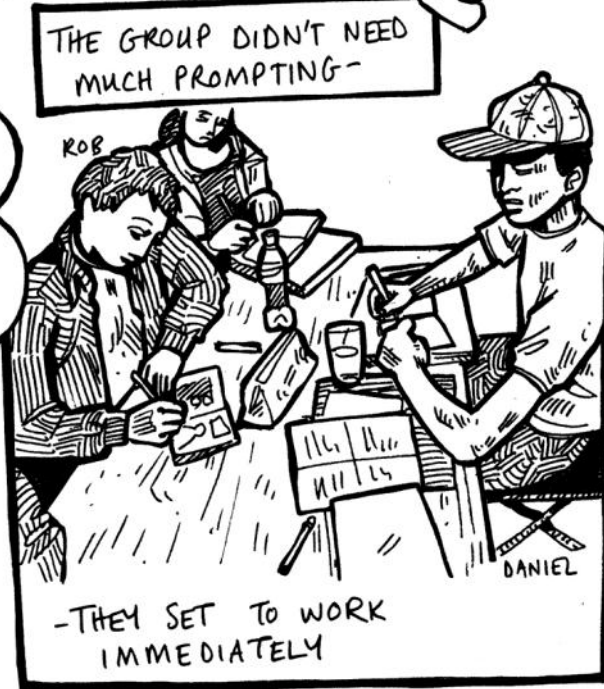
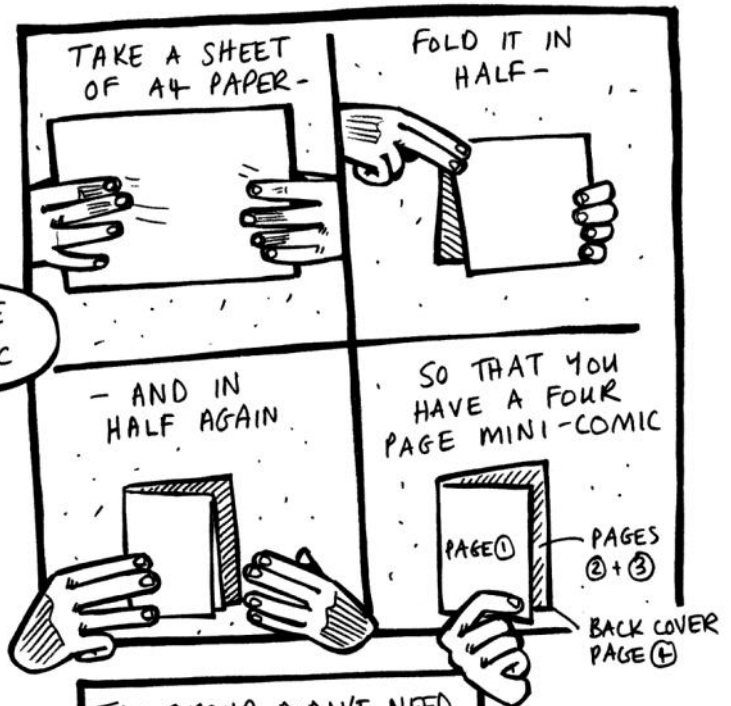
MOSAIC NETTING MESH

CLING FILM TO PROTECT THE TABLE



PUT GLUE ON THE BACK OF THE TILE PIECE AND THEN STICK IT TO THE MOSAIC NETTING. ONCE SET, YOU CAN THEN TRANSPORT THE PIECE





AND KEPT THEIR
HEADS DOWN FOR
THE NEXT HOUR



IN THE MEANTIME,
NATHAN HAD ARRIVED
AFTER I HAD BEGUN
THE WORKSHOP SO
HE STARTED HIS
STORY LATER THAN
THE OTHERS -



-YET PRODUCED A
COMPLEX, BRILLIANT
COMIC 3 PAGES LONG
IN NEXT TO NO TIME



"ANGRY CARL"
IS A SHORT
STORY ABOUT
WORKPLACE
STRESS AND
A WORKMATE
WHO INTERVENES.



MEANWHILE, THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE FINISHING THEIR COMICS

ROB WROTE A TALE OF A CHARACTER WITH DEPRESSION-

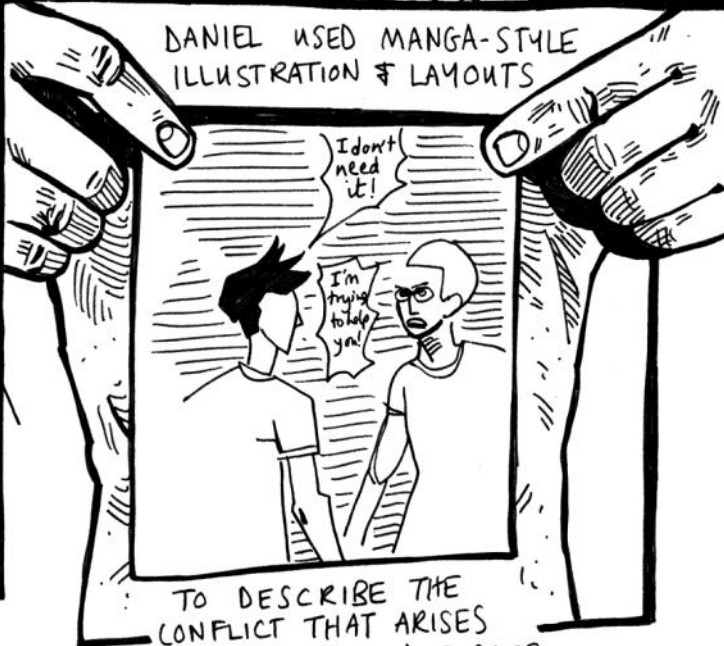


-WHOSE FEISTY FRIEND THREATENS AN INTERVENTION IF HE WON'T DISCUSS HIS PROBLEMS

NICHOLAS CREATED A SHORT COMIC ABOUT DRUG-INDUCED PARANOIA

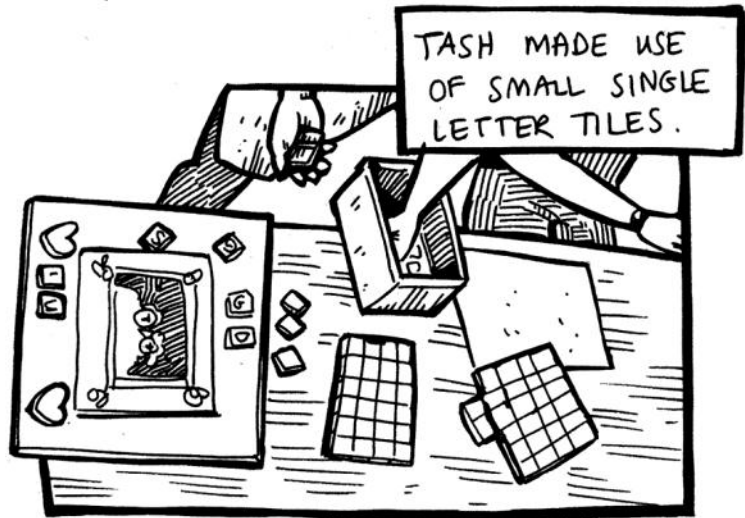


DANIEL USED MANGA-STYLE ILLUSTRATION & LAYOUTS



TO DESCRIBE THE CONFLICT THAT ARISES WHEN ONE FRIEND FORCES ANOTHER TO FACE THEIR TROUBLES.

WHILE THE COMICS WERE IN PROGRESS, THE OTHER HALF OF THE GROUP WERE CREATING MOSAIC DESIGNS WITH THEIR PRINTED TILES AND SECTIONS OF PATTERNED CERAMICS



THE OTHER TASH USED COLOURED TILES IN VARIOUS SHADES



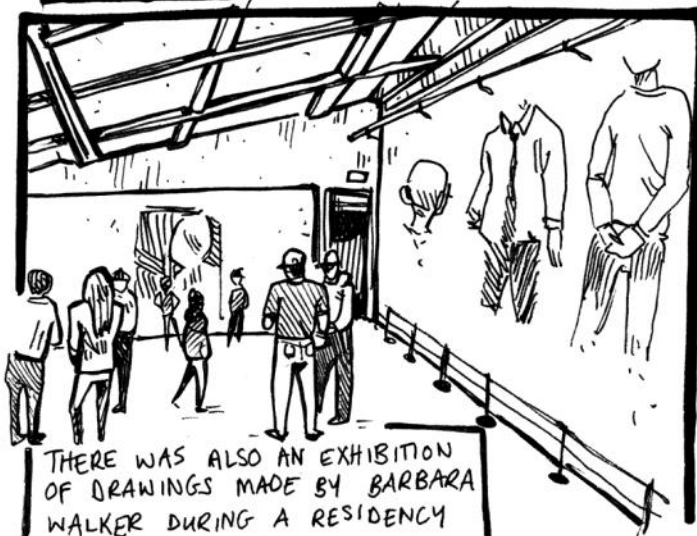
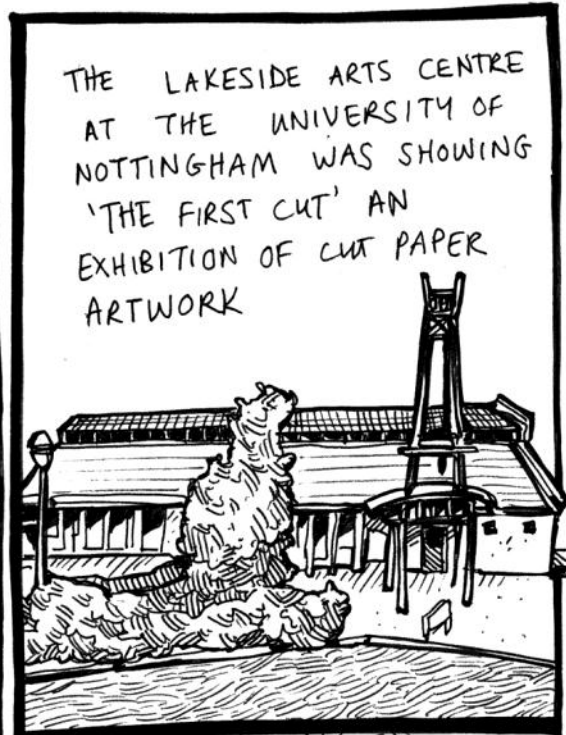
WHILE DANIEL USED TEXT CUT FROM THE NEWSPAPER TO MAKE A SLOGAN IN HIS NOTEBOOK



==CRAFT IN MIND==

WEEK ③



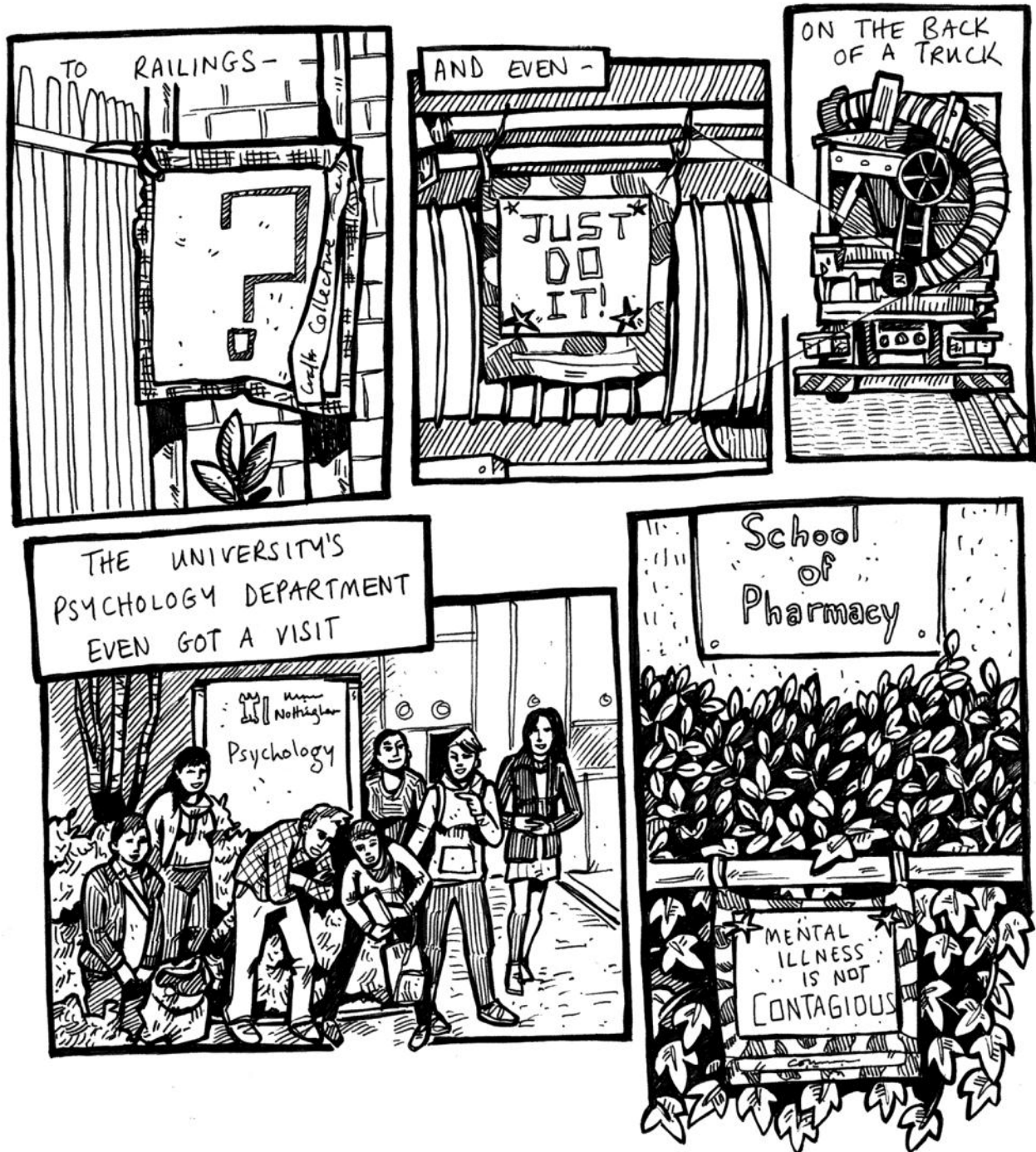




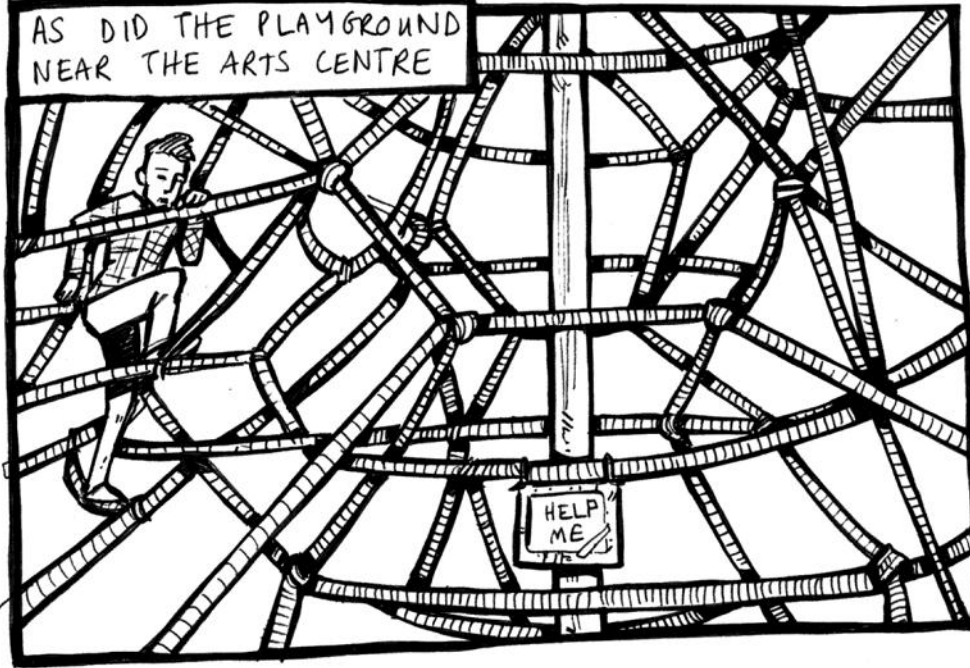


SOME OF THE GROUP THEN LEAVE WITH CARRIE TO UNDERTAKE THEIR CRAFTIVIST ACTIVITIES - ATTACHING CROSS-STITCH SLOGANS TO LAMP POSTS





AS DID THE PLAYGROUND
NEAR THE ARTS CENTRE



EVERYONE WAS
HYPERACTIVE
AFTER ALL OF
THE ACTIVITIES

THAT'S THE MOST
FUN I'VE HAD
SINCE I WAS
A KID



SOME PEOPLE
STAYED IN THE
VENUE TO SKETCH
WHILE THE CRAFTIVISTS
WERE BUSY-



THE MINIBUS TOOK
US BACK TO BIRMINGHAM-



A SLEEPY END
TO AN ACTION-
PACKED DAY

≡ CRAFT IN MIND ≡ Week 4

AFTER 3 WEEKS OF SKILL SHARING & CRAFTIVISM, THE GROUP NOW HAVE TO FOCUS ON THE FINAL PARTS OF THE PROJECT

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR DEIDRE BUCKLEY BEGINS WITH A MEETING & DISCUSSION



- AT 6/8 KAFÉ IN BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE -

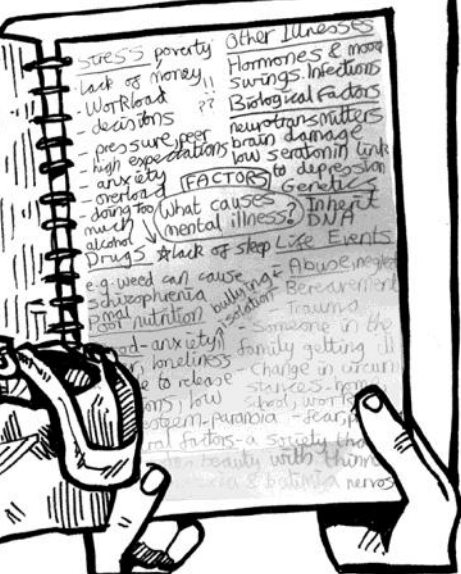




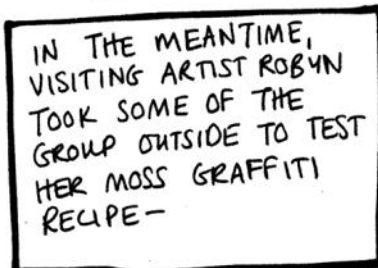
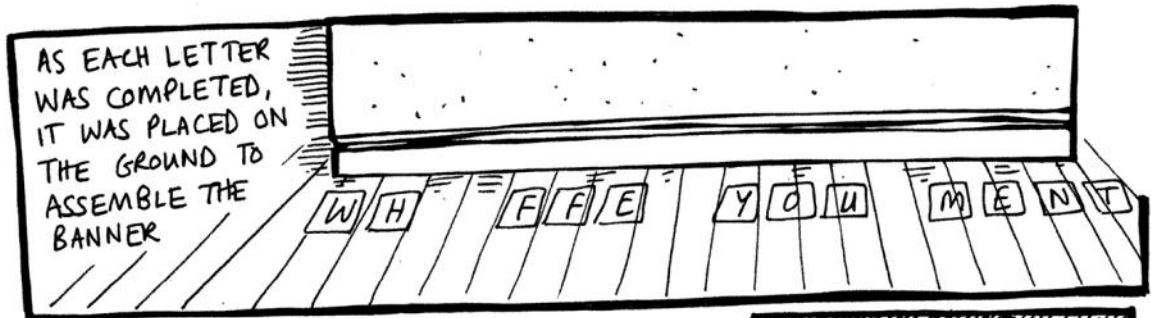
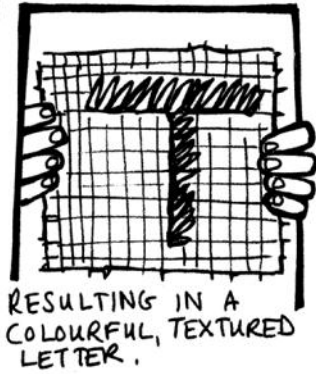
AS PART OF HER GOLD ART AWARD SARAH WAS RUNNING A WORKSHOP DURING THE SESSION

SHE HAD TO COME UP WITH A SLOGAN FOR THE RUG BANNER -

I DID SOME BRAINSTORMING IN MY NOTEBOOK -









LATER ON IN THE DAY, SOME PEOPLE WERE CREATING COMICS WHILE OTHERS CONTINUED WORK ON THE RUG-BANNER

IN AMONG ALL OF THE ACTIVITY WERE MANY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT LIFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

I GET SEARCHED ON THE BUS- I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING, I'M JUST A BIT LOUD.

COMING HERE GOT ME OUT OF BED THIS MORNING

ABOUT BEING ON ANTI-DEPRESSANTS-

IT MADE ME FEEL LIKE I WAS LOOKING INTO MY OWN LIFE. OBSERVING IT, NOT LIVING IT.

IT MADE APPLYING FOR DISABILITY DIFFICULT BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE MEDICATION. YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN THAT ON A FORM.

I FELT EXACTLY THE SAME

ONCE I WENT IN AND SPOKE TO SOMEONE, THEY APPROVED IT RIGHT AWAY-

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT CRAFT THAT OFTEN ALLOWS DISCUSSION TO FLOW - PERHAPS BECAUSE OUR HANDS ARE OCCUPIED AND INVOLVED

ON THIS PARTICULAR AFTERNOON, MANY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP SPOKE ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES OPENLY

I HAD TO BE THE DAD OF THE FAMILY AGED JUST 13. IT ALL KIND OF CAME OUT LAST YEAR - A LOT LATER

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE THE SOFA - IT JUST SEEMED LIKE THE SAFEST PLACE

MY DOCTOR SAID I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR ATTENTION

MY SCHOOL FAILED ME. I WASN'T ALLOWED TO DO ART OR CREATIVE SUBJECTS



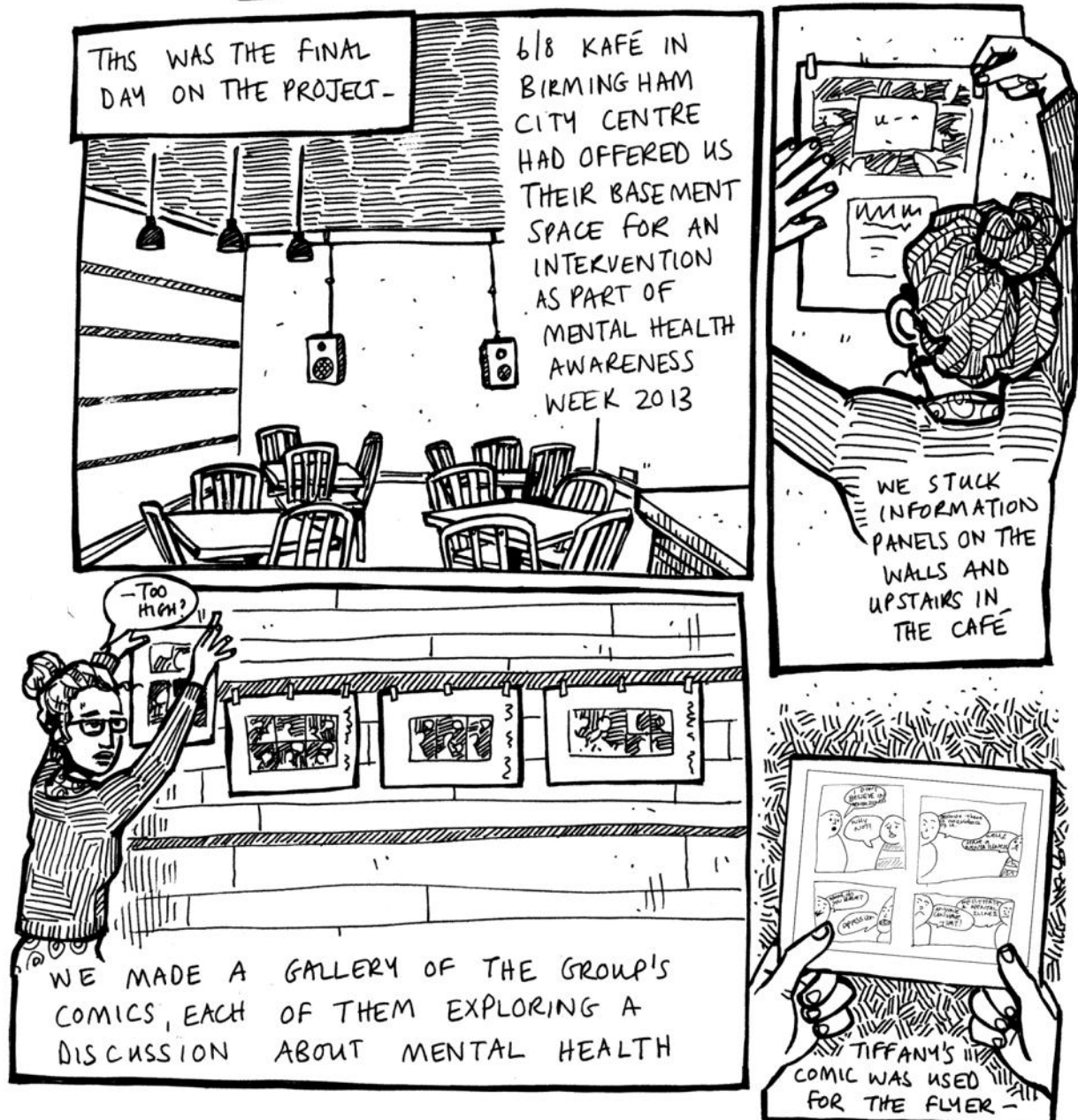
I ASKED SARAH F. HOW SHE FOUND DELIVERING HER WORKSHOP.

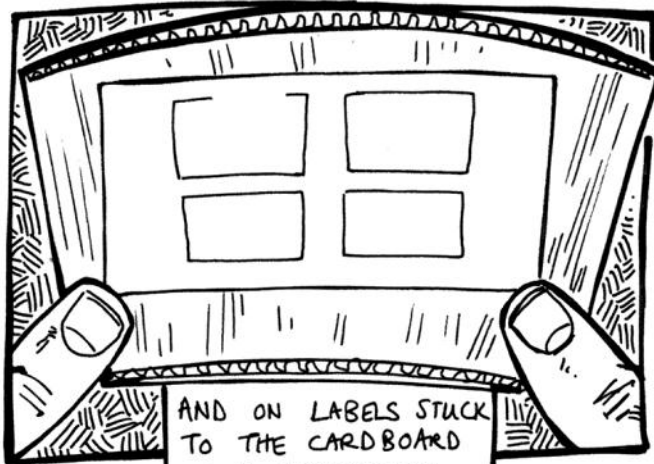
I'VE REALLY ENJOYED IT.

AT FIRST I FOUND IT DIFFICULT WITH SO MANY PEOPLE. I'M STILL GETTING USED TO IT.

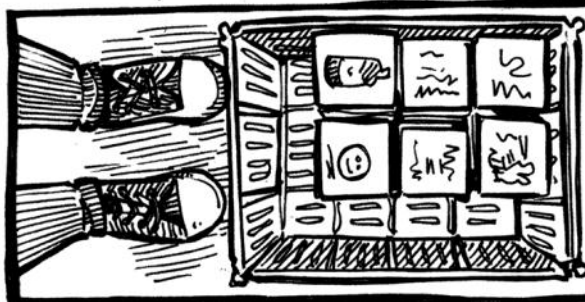
I'VE NEVER RUN A WORKSHOP BEFORE. I'D HELPED OUT BUT WASN'T COMFORTABLE IN CHARGE.

≡CRAFT IN MIND≡ Week 5





-BACKING THEIR SLOGAN TILES WITH CORK



SARAH F HAD
WORKED WITH
OTHERS, SEWING
TOGETHER THE
INDIVIDUAL
LETTERS FOR
HER BANNER



- CUTTING OUT STRIPS
OF MATERIAL WITH
A PINKING SHEARS



- USING FABRIC MARKERS,
SLOGANS ARE WRITTEN
ON TO THE MATERIAL



AND ATTACHED
TO THE BANNER
WITH SAFETY PINS

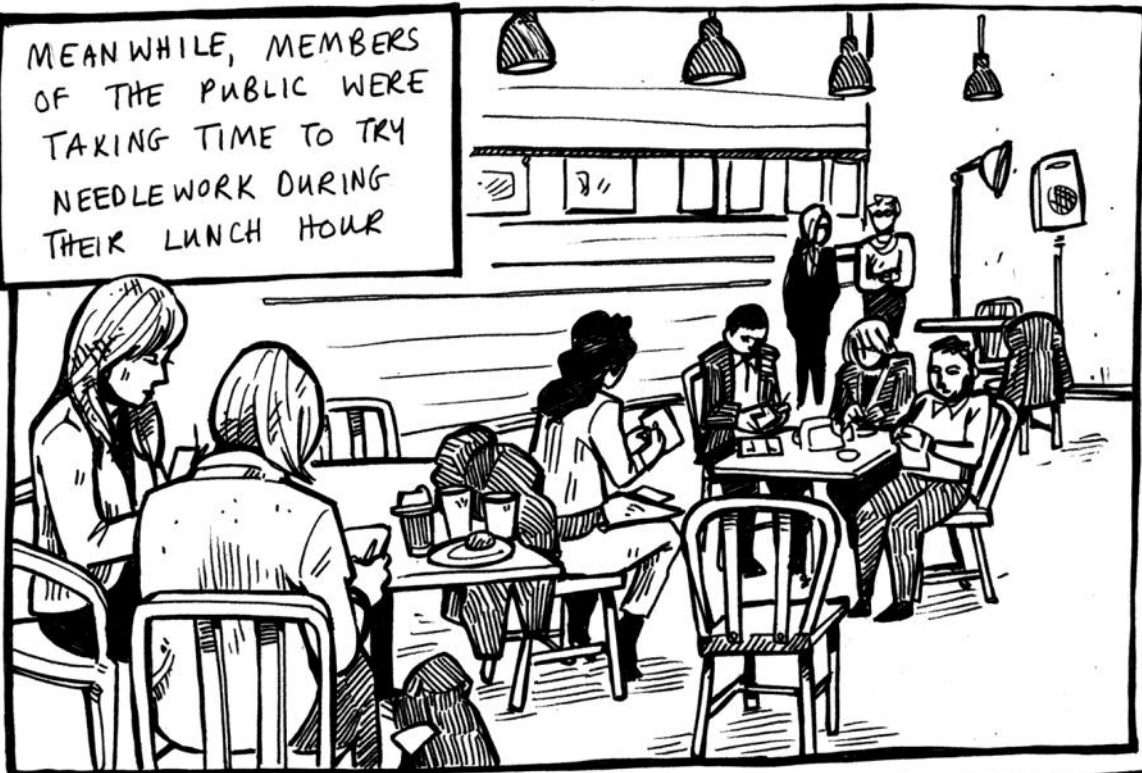
IN THE 6/8 KAFÉ,
THE PIECE CAME TOGETHER



AND PROVED VERY
ENGAGING -



MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WERE TAKING TIME TO TRY NEEDLEWORK DURING THEIR LUNCH HOUR



FOR THOSE UNABLE TO STAY, THERE WAS A POSTER UPSTAIRS AT THE TILL

AND THEY COULD WALK AWAY WITH A CROSS STITCH KIT, COMPLETE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR UPLOADING IMAGES TO THE CRAFT IN MIND FACEBOOK PAGE.



AT THE END OF THE AFTERNOON, THE PUBLIC PART OF THE DAY WAS OVER.

WITH COFFEE & COOKIES IN HAND, WE FILMED A SERIES OF VIDED INTERVIEWS

THE PARTICIPANTS USED THE POSTERS DRAWN EARLIER TO QUESTION EACH OTHER FOR THE CAMERA—



THIS METHOD BROUGHT OUT SOME STRONG TESTIMONIES





IT WAS KAYE
WHO PROBABLY
SUMMED UP
THE PROJECT
AND THE
PARTICIPANT'S
EXPERIENCE
BEST-

WITH THIS GROUP
I FEEL THAT THERE
IS SUPPORT AND
THAT I CAN TRUST
PEOPLE AGAIN-



FIN - Maere 2013