How to make your own zine
based on the LGBTQ+=Me exhibition
#HastingsDigitalMuseum
This activity is inspired by the exhibition LGBTQ+=Me, a touring exhibition showcasing the work of a group of young people from East Sussex.

These young people, who all identify as LGBTQ+, have been looking at the experiences of queer people in East Sussex. They met regularly to research the histories of local LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer plus others) communities and make artworks in response. The group hope LGBTQ+=Me will give people greater understanding, encourage tolerance, and inspire solidarity between fellow human beings.
Share your LGBTQ=Me zine

In this activity, you will learn how to make a ‘zine’, as we explore some of the key themes and techniques behind the exhibition. We would also like you to share your zines and artworks with us on social media by posting photos of your creations with the hashtag #HastingsDigitalMuseum and we'll do our best to showcase as much of your lovely content as we can.
HOPE
LOVE
TRANSGENDER
NON-BINARY
TRANQUILITY
QUEER
What is a zine and how can I make one?

‘Zine’ (pronounced *zeen*) is short for ‘fanzine’, a type of DIY magazine. Zines can be made by anyone, whether it's one person or a group, and can spread ideas in a creative but low cost way (often through photocopies). They can be a one-off or a series, and can cover any topic. Think especially about voices or opinions that aren't often heard. How might a zine help?

The group of young people behind *LGBTQ+Me* have made zines to spread messages against discrimination (the poor and unfair treatment of a person or group), particularly based on sexuality, gender, race or a mix of these. They chose words and images in support of a world with more freedom and self-expression.

Think about what you want your own zine to be about. You could make one on your own, or work together with members of your household. What messages will you include and what techniques will you use to express them? Follow the steps below for some practical advice and inspiration.
First, you’ll learn how to make a six-page zine template. There are many ways to make a zine, but this method uses just one sheet of paper and some clever cutting and folding. Read through these steps and use the images to guide you.

You will need:

- An A3 size sheet of paper (or tape two A4 size sheets of paper together)
- A craft knife and cutting mat (scissors if you don’t have these)
- A pencil and rubber
1. Fold your sheet of paper into eight equal squares, with creases you can clearly see. Label each square with a number, making sure to copy the pattern in the picture (write the top numbers upside-down, they'll end up the right way). Use a pencil so you can rub out the numbers at the end.

2. Carefully make a cut between the middle four squares, following the dotted line in the picture. It's easiest to do this with a craft knife and cutting mat, but you can use scissors (just make sure to snip only in the middle, and not cut the entire sheet in half). Make sure to get help if you can't use a knife or scissors on your own.

3. Fold your sheet in half widthways. The cut you made should now be at the top, and able to open and close like a mouth.

4. Take hold of the end squares and push them towards each other. The middle squares should pop out like in the picture. Push together the four corners shown by the arrows until they all touch in the middle. You will now have an open book shape.

5. Look for square one and square eight, which will be the front and back cover of your zine, and find the crease in between them. Fold everything lengthways along this crease to make the spine of your book.

6. You now have the template for your zine. Flip through the pages and you'll see the numbers are in the correct order from one to eight and the right way up - you can now rub these out.

It's time to decorate the outside of your zine, and fill the six pages inside! We hope you'll be inspired by the topics and techniques suggested below.
Here are some prompts inspired by the LGBTQ+=Me exhibition, broken into three main topics: ‘Identity = Me’, ‘Allyship = Friends’, and ‘Activism = Community Heroes’. Your zine has enough room to cover each of these topics across three double-page spreads, but you could focus on just one or even come up with your own entirely.

Identity = Me
Allyship = Friends
Activism = Community Heroes
YOU ARE YOURSELF NO ONE ELSE BE GAY
Many of the artworks created for LGBTQ+Me are about celebrating being yourself. What makes you ‘you’? This is what we’d call ‘identity’. Why not use your zine to tell us? There are lots of different ways to show it. You could draw a self-portrait, write a poem or include a favourite object or colour. You could represent yourself using a symbol - for example, this artwork showing a butterfly could be a symbol for someone who has flown free or gone through a transformation. Further down you will find the stories behind flags created to represent LGBTQ+ communities.

What objects, symbols or colours could you choose to show who you are? Why are they special to you? Do they tell a story about you?

If your zine is around for many years to come, it will act a bit like a time capsule. What would you want future generations to know about what your life was like, and how could you show it?
Helping others on their LGBTQ+ journeys and will include our whole community.
Allyship = Friends

The importance of friendship is a big part of the LGBTQ+=Me exhibition. Friends help us feel supported, whether it’s because we share things in common with them or knowing we will listen to and look out for each other. Could you share a tribute to friendship in your zine?

What symbols could represent your friendship with someone? It could be a friendship bracelet, a shared favourite animal, hobby or character.

Friendships can mean celebrating differences as well as similarities. Another word for this can be ‘allyship’. Sometimes we show allyship for others even if we don’t share everything in common with them. What’s something you wouldn’t change about a friend, even if you’re not the same?

What about supporting your friends when they are in need? How do you help them, and how do they help you? What support are you good at giving - do you stand up for someone if they’re being picked on, or do you make sure to listen to their worries?
Activism = Community Heroes

Rainbow pride flag  Bi pride flag  Trans pride flag
Non-binary pride flag  Intersex pride flag  Asexual pride flag

We often create symbols to celebrate people we want to thank or appreciate. The LGBTQ+ rainbow flag was made to honour people in those communities, and now we have a similar rainbow to thank key workers - you might even know someone who is a hero in both groups. Use your zine to tell us - is there someone in your community you think is worth celebrating? Why are you celebrating them? What about them inspires you? What makes someone a hero?

You could choose to highlight someone who is local to you. For example, here are some LGBTQ+ people who were or are connected to East Sussex. Some people would call them ‘activists’ because they have inspired change in society.

Lesbian = Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943)
Gay = Alan Turing (1913-1954)
Bisexual = Duncan Grant (1885-1978)
Transgender = Fox Fisher (1980-)
Queer = Gluck (1895-1978)
Lesbian = Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943)
Radclyffe was an English author, best remembered for writing *The Well of Loneliness*. She lived with her partner Una Troubridge in Rye during the 1930s.

Gay = Alan Turing (1913-1954)
Alan is the face of the £50 note and is sometimes called the ‘father of modern computing’. As a child he went to school in Hastings and Frant.

Bisexual = Duncan Grant (1885-1978)
Duncan was a painter and part of the Bloomsbury Group. He lived at Charleston Farmhouse near Firle with his partner Vanessa Bell and their family.

Transgender = Fox Fisher (1980-)
Fox is a film maker and co-founder of Trans Pride Brighton and Hove where they live. Fox’s film series *My Genderation* is about trans people and their lives.

Queer plus others = Gluck (1895-1978)
Gluck was a gender-nonconforming painter. Although there was no legal status at the time, Gluck ‘married’ Nesta Obermer at Mill House, Plumpton.
I am who I'm meant to be
Techniques for decorating your zine

There are many different ways you can decorate a zine, and your unique style is what makes it special. The best thing about making a zine is it doesn't have to be perfect, so you can colour outside of the lines, experiment with different styles and it can be a little rough around the edges. Here are some techniques that might help spark your creativity. Have fun!

The easiest way to decorate your zine is using pencils, crayons or felt tip pens. There are many ways you can use shading to create different shapes and textures.

There are five styles shown here: stippling, hatching, cross hatching, smooth back-and-forth (what almost everyone does) and scumbling (random squiggles). If you like getting your hands dirty, you can also try smudging. Each technique used here fades out from left to right.

Watercolour paints are great for making quick blocks of colour. You can also create abstract designs.

Experiment with drying out your brush on a separate piece of paper before applying it, or you could also try using different coloured paints on top of another colour before it has dried.

It can take a while for watercolours to dry, but once it has you can also draw on top of it.
Watercolour paint has been used to make an even yellow background.

Using acrylic paint on a paintbrush (or an old toothbrush) you can run your thumb over the bristles to flick paint onto your image to create a splatter effect.

This can get really messy, so remember to cover up any surfaces you’re working on (and yourself)!

You can also hold your paintbrush or toothbrush further back and get a finer effect, which gives it a look similar to spray paint, as you can see here.

You can also cut out stencils in the shape of butterflies, stars, letters or other outlines to create different designs. Make sure to get help if you can’t use scissors on your own.

Cut outs have been used to make the purple ring in the asexual pride flag. A solid circle as well as a stencil of a circle have been used together.

If you don’t have watercolours available, then felt tip pens or highlighters are also great for laying down blocks of colour quickly. As they’re very quick drying, you can also draw directly on top of them almost immediately.

As you can see it just takes a blue and pink highlighter to make a trans pride flag!
Highlighters are also great for drawing big, bold letters, which look like the graffiti letters used in the LGBTQ+=Me exhibition.

A combination of colour pencil and highlighters have been used to fill in the background to make a rainbow.

The rainbow was first used by Gilbert Baker in 1978 to represent LGBTQ+ pride.

Acrylic paint is a really useful material for mixing different colours to get the exact shade you’re looking for.

With just red, blue and white acrylic paint you can make a bi pride flag for your zine. Red and white are mixed to make pink, while red and blue are mixed to make purple.

Oil paints are more expensive than acrylic and take longer to dry. Best keep them for paintings!

Acrylic paint can look different depending on how you apply it. Instead of using a paintbrush to apply a thick layer of paint, a sponge has been used to press paint onto the paper giving it a lighter and softer look.

You can also use potatoes to make stamps. You can make stamps of butterflies, stars, letters or any other shapes you like. Make sure to get help if you can’t use a knife on your own.
Collaging is another great way to make solid colour backgrounds. You can tear or cut pieces of magazine, newspaper or scrap paper and glue it onto your zine.

Here torn strips of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple paper have been used to make the rainbow flag. Some of the strips had patterns already on it, which adds more interesting elements to look at!

You can also cut out letters from magazines and newspapers to create words and phrases.

Different letter styles, sizes and colours have been chosen because they stand out on their own. When combined it creates a random effect, but can look really great.

You could also cut out words and reassemble them to make a collage of your favourite poem or a quote from a community hero.

Now you’ve mastered a few different styles, try combining them in unusual ways to create an artwork that is as unique as you are!
Glossary

The words we use to describe our identity are always changing. Here's a list of some terms and their meanings that might be useful.

Asexual
Someone who experiences little or no physical attraction to others. Asexual people may still feel romantic and/or emotional attraction.

Bisexual or Bi
Someone who is physically, romantically and/or emotionally attracted towards more than one gender. Some people might use the term pansexual in addition to or instead of bisexual.

Cisgender or Cis
Someone whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. A person who is not trans.

Coming Out
The process of telling others about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Gay
Someone who is physically, romantically and/or emotionally attracted to people of the same sex and/or gender as them. It is mostly used by men attracted to men, but can be used by anyone.

Gender
When a child is born, they are assigned a sex (male or female). Gender is a set of ideas of what people should be like and do, based on their sex assigned at birth. This might not always fit for everyone (see non-binary or trans), even people who are cisgender might not want to follow all the expectations of their gender.
Heterosexual / Straight
A man who has a romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction only towards women, or a woman who has a romantic, emotional and/or physical attraction only towards men.

Homosexual
This might be seen as a more medical term used to describe someone who is attracted to people of the same sex. The term ‘gay’ is now more generally used.

Homophobia / biphobia / transphobia
Fear, discrimination, prejudice or bullying of a person because they are LGBTQ+, or thought to be. Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are considered Hate Crimes.

Intersex
Someone who does not fit into binary (male or female) categories of sex. Intersex people may identify as male, female or non-binary.

Lesbian
A woman who is physically, romantically and/or emotionally attracted to women. Some non-binary people may also identify with this term.

LGBTQ+
Initials that stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer, while the plus sign recognises a spectrum of additional sexual orientations and gender identities.

Non-binary
Someone whose identity doesn't fit with a binary (male or female) idea of gender and/or sex. Non-binary identities are varied and can include people who identify with some ideas of what’s 'male' or 'female', while others reject them entirely.
Pronouns
Words that people may use to describe themselves or others such as he/him and she/her, and they/them or hir/zi (gender neutral).

Queer
An umbrella term used by someone to identify as being LGBTQ+ and can describe a range of sexual orientations and gender identities. In the past it was sometimes used as an abusive term, but has been reclaimed and is also an academic term.

Questioning
The process of considering or exploring one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Sex
Historically a label of either male or female, based on our anatomy (body) when we’re born. Trans people sometimes refer to having been ‘assigned’ a sex and gender, because they were labelled as ‘male’ or ‘female’ by other people.

Sexual Orientation
How someone defines their physical attraction. Categories of sexual orientation include: lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and heterosexual.

Trans
An umbrella term used to describe an individual or group of people who are not the sex and/or gender they were assigned at birth.

Trans people may describe themselves using one or more of a wide variety of terms, including (but not limited to) transgender, transsexual, gender-queer (GQ), gender-fluid, non-binary, gender-variant, crossdresser, genderless, agender, nongender, third gender, bi-gender, trans man, trans woman, trans masculine, trans feminine and neutrois.
Transitioning

The steps a trans person may take to live in the gender they are. Each person's transition will involve different things. For some this involves medical intervention, such as hormone therapy and surgeries, but not all trans people want or are able to have this transitioning. It also might involve things such as telling friends and family, dressing differently and changing official documents.
Colour me in

Fox Fisher

Radclyffe Hall
This guide was made by Olivia Bladen @Olivia_Bluden and Dan Vo @DanNouveau. Thank you to the Chalk Cliff Trust and ACE for making and funding this resource.

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There is a leaflet available with sources of support, information and friendship for LGBTQ+ adults and young people, their family and friends, available via the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery website.