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Protest Press:

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With a socially conscious mindset and a creative rooting, Protest Press seeks to educate, inspire, create, collect and collaborate. Using a unique process grounded in paper, we initiate conversations and form ideas around current topics, creating statement rich posters which express a range of opinions. In a world that feels ever more separated, we believe our aim to encourage collaboration, conversation and freedom of expression, is key to sparking change for good.

Looking back over the last few years, during a time of huge political change, it is safe to say we have all sometimes felt helpless or out of control. As 4 young designers, studying design communication in London, we felt it was only right to use these negative feelings as motivation to create. In 2017, we ran our first Protest Press workshop. We gave participants the space to find, develop and express their own opinions through the creative process of poster printing. Since then we have run multiple workshops across the UK, including one in Melbourne, with a range of people from students, to women migrants.



¹ Protest Press is founded and run by Scarlett Chetwin, Sarah Houghton, Grace Lister and Aoife O'Doherty.

8 Ways to Get Going!

We are going to step you through some initiatives to get you from thinking to doing. Protest Press has now been running for a year and a half.

Here's what we've learnt along the way:

1. Find what you care about. There is an endless amount of issues in the world. The key is to find one you're particularly passionate about. If it's a subject you can talk about endlessly, you're probably on the right tracks.
2. Educate yourself on the topic, theme or issue you wish to discuss. There is strength in knowing the facts. Research, read up, speak to others and ask lots of questions!
3. Form a collective. Power is stronger in numbers, so find people who share your passion. Can you collaborate with people whose skills complement your own? In the right conditions, $1 + 1 = 3$.
4. Context is key. You must always be looking to communicate your message clearly, and to the right audience. Think about who needs to see it, but also be aware of how your message will be received.
5. Use cheap and easily accessible materials. You can make surprisingly interesting and unique work with very little money. This will only makes your job easier, and forces you to be creative with what you've got.
6. Speak to everyone. In the creative world, connections are everything. Make a network with interesting people and never underestimate the power of reaching out to others for advice.
7. Look around you. Don't just look at design, be inspired by your environment. Go to galleries, talks, watch films and read books. Ideas come from anywhere and everywhere.
8. Lastly, stay positive. It is easy to feel hopeless about issues you're trying to solve. We definitely have. But don't let it overwhelm you. A positive outlook will not only have a positive impact on your practice, but will empower others to join your cause and spread your message further.



'Our House Is On Fire'

Sun exposure print poster made during the Summer Solstice (2019).

'So Why Do You Care'

Letterpress print poster made in a university workshop (2018).

All photos from Somerset House workshop. Photos taken by Ben Peter Catchpole.





SO
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