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Santa Fe Zine Fest
Center for Contemporary Arts
1050 Old Pecos Trail
Saturday, April 14, 2017 12-5pm

SANTA FE’S SECOND ANNUAL ZINE FEST RETURNS TO CCA

Santa Fe, NM—On Saturday, April 14th, local writers, artists, and zine publishers will gather at CCA for the second annual Santa Fe Zine Fest. But while zine fans will be clamoring to participate in the event, others might be scratching their heads about what zines really are.

A “zine,” which is short for magazine or fanzine, is a small-circulation, self-published booklet, usually reproduced using a photocopier. They’re distinct from other self-published books in that zine publishers—or zinesters—trade or sell their zines very inexpensively. The intention isn’t to make a profit but to share writing, ideas, or art. The term “zine” can be traced back to the pulp science fiction arena of the 40s and 50s. Later, the punk scene of the 70s and the Riot Grrl movement of the early 90s popularized zines written about politics, music, and personal issues. But the beauty of zines is that they can be almost anything—poetry, photography, art, personal essays, music reviews, recipes…the possibilities are endless.

With the rise of the internet and blogs, zines experienced a lull in the late 90s and early 00s. But recently they’ve been embraced by a new generation, and zine festivals like Santa Fe’s have been popping up all over the country, allowing new and established zinesters to share their gems with the public.

Here in New Mexico, joining ranks with longstanding zine festivals in places like Portland and San Francisco, Albuquerque Zine Fest has been running seven years strong. But until last year, Santa Fe had no such gathering. Despite renewed excitement about zines, local writer, zine publisher, and Santa Fe Zine Fest founder Bucket Siler was initially unsure how much interest
there would be in having a festival locally. “I figured our first year would be pretty small,” says Siler. “Wow, was I wrong. Exhibitor tables filled up within a week, and we had over 200 attendees at the event.”

Last year’s unexpected success inspired Siler to organize Summer Zine Reading! in July 2017, which featured six zine publishers from the fest. She also worked to clarify the event’s mission and purpose, which she describes as “encouraging a greater community between diverse creators of independent publications and art in Northern New Mexico.”

“Once I realized that the event could really take off, having a guiding vision was important,” explains Siler. “Zine fest is a curated event, so I wanted to get clear about what kind of space we were looking to create and how we would make decisions going forward.”

Siler’s event also caught the attention of 516 ARTS, who awarded Santa Fe Zine Fest a Fulcrum Fund Award for its second year. “I’m very grateful for their support,” says Siler. “I was in way over my head last year. I didn’t expect the event to be so big and was totally unprepared for the amount of work and resources required to pull it off. I honestly don’t know what I would’ve done without that grant.”

Hosted in CCA’s main gallery, Santa Fe Zine Fest will feature upwards of 30 exhibitors. In addition to local zines, publishers are traveling from Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Denver. “It’s a great mix,” Siler says. “We’ll have personal zines, photo zines, poetry, DIY instructional zines, fiction, illustration, political zines… Some of the exhibitors have been at this for 20 years, others are publishing their very first zine for the festival.”

Among the hundreds of zines that will be showcased are the found-image zine *Lurkin’ Hard; She is Restless*, about climate change; *Life Raft*, a local feminist zine; *Variant Space*, which features the work of Muslim women; poetry zine *Tuesday Morning Lemons*; and the all-ages adventure comic book *Super Duper Ninja Squad*.

New exhibitors include Anagram Zine Distro, L.E. Brown, Enrique Martinez, and Orianna Pavlik; while Strangers Collective, Yvette Serrano, and Anastasio Wrobel are among those returning for a second year.

“We were able to accommodate a lot more exhibitors this year,” says Siler. “I’m more hopeful than ever Santa Fe Zine Fest can help nurture the zine community in Santa Fe, and introduce zines to people who haven’t heard of them.”

Santa Fe Zine Fest is free and open to the public, Saturday, April 14th from 12-5pm in the main gallery at the Center for Contemporary Arts. It's a zinester's dream come true, and it’s also a perfect introduction to the world of small publishing for those tired of the mainstream press. Attendees are encouraged (but not required) to bring their own zines for trade and will have the opportunity to engage with Santa Fe’s zine makers, as well as its emerging arts and DIY communities.

For more information and images please contact Bucket Siler, santafezinefest@gmail.com