



Having their start in the 1930s, zines, also known as fanzines, were based on science fiction and the culture surrounding it (Arnold, 2016). By the 1960s, zines were all the rage, especially in communities that celebrated science fiction based media like Star Trek.



In later decades, zines shifted to become a pivotal element of underground counter-culture. Focusing primarily on social and political activism, zines are spaces for informal information sharing between like-minded individuals.

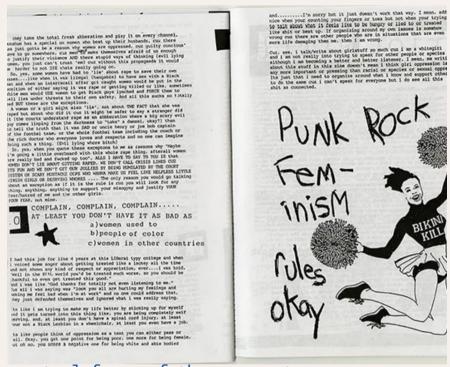
As we reached the 1970s, punk zines became all the rage in the underground scenes; famously, zines like Ripped and Torn, Slash, and Sniffin' Glue and Other Rock n Roll Habits for Punks focused on music, art, activism, and building solidarity and community.



The importance of having a space to express your views and thoughts as a young person has not diminished in the years since the punk scene was booming (hello to new age punk!).



By the 90s, tamous zines such as riot grrrl were on the scene. Although riot grrrl has become its own cultural, socio-political movement and ideology, it began as a zine in the late 1980s.



The central focus of the movement was creating and solidifying a space for women in music, as well as creating community across the readership. Riot grrrl is still a growing movement to this day, including the creation of zines in its honour. This in itself proves the longevity of the zine format.

And then we reach today; a time of zine dissemination like no other (thank you Internet). As we are now able to create zines entirely online, including publishing, marketing, and selling, the zine world is constantly expanding.

The great part about zines is the artistic freedom the medium allows: zines can literally be about anything. Zines allow for the creator to express themselves in various mediums, all wrapped up in one place.

Reference List and Further Readings:

Arnold, C. (2016). A brief history of the zine. Mental Floss.https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/88911/brief-history-zines

Burke, S. (2018). A beginner's guide to making zines. Vice. https://www.vice.com/en/article/d3jxyj/how-to-make-a-zine-vgtl

Lee, J., L. (2018). The forgotten zine of 1960s Asian-American radicals. Topic. https://www.topic.com/theforgotten-zine-of