

KINGSTON

Photobook and Zine Fair shines light on print media, artists



Rhonda Lowry, left, and Natalie Thomas run the Women's Studio Workshop booth at the Center for Photography at Woodstock's Photobook and Zine Fair in Kingston, N.Y., on Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025. CONNOR GRECO — DAILY FREEMAN

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KINGSTON, N.Y. >> More than 30 artists and publishers were showcasing their work on Sunday, Aug. 10, during the Center for Photography at Woodstock's Photobook and Zine Fair.

The two-day fair, which began Saturday, Aug. 9, drew a crowd to the center's building on Dederick Street in Midtown. Visitors took part in discussions, workshops, and other events focused on the power of photography and print media, specifically magazines and other publications made by small publishers.

In its third year, the fair hosted two panels over the weekend. On Saturday, a talk, titled "Dodge & Burn Panel Discussion: Decolonizing the Photobook," saw photographers Keisha Scarville, Hernease Davis, and Kim Weston in conversation with author Qiana Mestrich.

The three photographers, who are featured in Mestrich's book, "Decolonization and Diversity in Contemporary Photography: The Dodge & Burn Interviews," spoke about the influence of print photography both on their own works and on the artistic world in general.

Sunday's panel, "10×10 Salon: The Photobook and Resistance," featured contributors to the center's Flashpoint! Protest Photography in Print reading room and its 2024 publication, "10×10 Photobooks." The panel dissected the impact of protest photography on global historical movements.

Also set up during the fair was a do-it-yourself zine workshop, where fairgoers of all ages could make their own zines.

Amidst the vibrant discussion of print media's role both in history and the modern era, fairgoers perused booths operated by local and visiting artists and publishers showcasing their work.

Artists Jordanna Kalman, based in Poughkeepsie, and Katherine Driscoll, who lives in Germantown, shared a table at the fair featuring their works.

"I've got some books, some zines," Kalman said in an interview. "I just continue to put out work in a book format because it suits me and my work in the best way."

Driscoll added, "I'm usually more of a wall artist, but my friend Jordanna has encouraged me to branch out more into my book practice a little bit. I think it's more accessible to more people to have small things that are a reasonable price point."

"There's more of an intimacy with books and zines," Kalman said.

Rhonda Lowry and Natalie Thomas were running the booth representing the Women's Studio Workshop, an artists' residency and print studio with a 50-year history in Rosendale.

"We have a cool assortment of things on our table," Lowry said in an interview. "We've got a selection of artists' books from our publishing history. We've been publishing artists' books since the early '80s, and we've published over 240 titles."

"We also have some, kind of fitting with the theme, some more photography-centric titles,"

Lowry added.

Lowry highlighted a publication by the Women's Studio Workshop, titled "Gender Liberators." It's an anthology of 20th-century writing, poetry, photography, paintings, and more by North American transgender, Two-spirit, non-binary, and trans-adjacent authors and creators.

"This is a book we're all very, very proud of, and very, very excited about," Lowry said. "This is the physical manifestation of a digital, online project called 'Gender.Network.' It's all been exhaustively compiled, researched by the artist, Sky Syzygy, who came to our studio in 2024 to create this book."

"It's just an absolutely incredible collection documenting trans history," Lowry said.

Lowry also said it felt great to be a part of a community of print artists. "We're very honored to be here," she said. "It's also so cool to see this growing print scene in Kingston come to life and be activated."