

LOWELL RYAN PROJECTS



FROM THE PUBLISHER

This is Issue Ten, which feels like a big number. As I was plotting it out, I had an idea of creating a grid of all the pages from past issues, a tribute to the project and the incredible contributors. But I wasn't sure exactly how to do it, technically.

I create the layout using InDesign and then convert it to a press quality .pdf. How would I get the pages from the last nine .pdfs converted to images and uniformly resized to fit into a visually balanced grid? I dunno. Maybe math would be involved. And some Googling. But I did neither, I decided to jump in and start plotting it out. First up, I determined that the images of the pages should be one inch high, because that seemed like a nice number for an orderly grid. Then I eyeballed how much spacing should be between the pages and guessed how much space it

would take up overall. I estimated the page numbers from each issue, instead of doing the math. I converted the giant .pdf files to images, resized them, and then placed each into a skeleton layout. By the time I got to the last row of images, I was shocked that my eyeballing and guessing was exactly right. By the end of the day I had created a grid that made me smile so big. It's this issue's centerfold.

I'm sharing this process because it explains Issue Ten's theme: The Undertaking. I'm a person who makes work for myself, roughs out a plan, and then jumps in. It's my way. And often at some point I shake my head and think, "What am I doing? What is this job I created?". As a whole, the newspaper comes from a DIY impetus, a love of labor, and determination.

The artists and writers included in Issue Ten: The Undertaking get it. They do it too. Reading the statements about their work in relation to the theme (turn to page 46) moved me. There is frustration, meditation, wonder, rejection, sadness, joy—the process of undertaking is intense, and wholly felt.

Yes, I am a person who creates work for myself and also makes space for myself. But I don't necessarily want to go at it alone—I like to collaborate and facilitate. I am full of gratitude for the nearly 300 contributors who have participated in this undertaking thus far with me.

Sacha

LOWELL RYAN PROJECTS

ERIN TREFRY A phrase fragment in the axial, 2018. Glazed stoneware and purse handles, 16 x 16 x 8 inches. Nonacceptance over decades complicated with an innate desire to honor the life of my beloved mother drives my expectation of self and holds me accountable to my impulses as an artist. My pursuit seeks to embrace many forms of success. Excellence rooted in ancestral behavior —tendency and practice drive my aspirations. Realization of this promise is incumbent upon each undertaking and each undertaking holds a responsibility to every outcome. This cycle is echoed throughout the body of my work— it's materiality and within the elements themselves.