

Thesis Introduction/Explanation

For my senior Thesis in the English department, I combined several different media and methods into a larger project. The thesis essay archived here is a major part of my project, but is also accompanied by two other sections just as crucial to the work, which are a collection of poetry and a hand-made book. As is talked about in the essay, I believe these two endeavours were integral to what I consider the culmination of my thought and practice in my English major.

Over my time at Vassar I have come to believe that to create without critiquing or to critique without creating is an abstract and potentially precarious endeavour, as I think the two are intrinsically bound up in each other and each is necessary for the understanding of each other. In this vein, I chose to both write, create, revise, review and critique my work and theories surrounding it for my thesis. I hope that my thesis will be enjoyable and intriguing to read in all of its three parts, and perhaps provide a way of thinking about creation and critique as more closely joined.

The collection of poetry is attached, in text-only form, though the book is less communicable, as there is only one copy. The book's singularity is unfortunate because I can't store a copy in the archives, but is also part of the essence of the book – that there is only one makes the experience of reading the book somewhat more special, more personal. If you read the essay and collection of poetry and feel moved to read the book, please contact me and I will find a way of sending it to you.

Joanna Hamer